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SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

HIKARU NAKAMURA

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

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Hikaru Nakamura

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: FACE OF BUDDHA X3
JESUS' SHIRT: JOSHUA

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: SHAKYA CLAN
JESUS' SHIRT: THE FATHER AND ME AND THE HOLY GHOST
SHIRT IN WINDOW: JOSHUA

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 1

Buddha's Day Off

CHIRP

CHIRP

SHIRT: SIDDHARTHA

I'M FINE!

I'M NOT PASSING ON TO NIRVANA!

RUSTLE

N-NO, NO!

Meow!

RUSTLE

JOLT

CHIRP

RUSTLE

UNGH...

RUSTLE

CHIRP

SHIRT: AMEN

WOULD IT BE SO WRONG IF YOU WERE?

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY WE GET TO COME TO DOWN TO EARTH.

...I WASN'T TRYING TO MAKE A JOKE!

PLOP

...

PIFF

"BUDDHA BUDDY"?

KA-CHAK

BUTT OUT, BUDDY!

I'M HOME.

WE DIDN'T EVEN SLACK OFF AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, WHEN EVERYONE THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS ENDING.

I GUESS SO.

AND HAVEN'T WE BEEN WORKING HARD ENOUGH?

WHAT?

OH, DID I GET A MUSTACHE?

WIPE

WIPE

...HEH HEH.

WHEW...

WHAT? DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TO YOU?

Heh heh heh...

NO, IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU.

IT WAS JUST A MOMENT AGO. YOU KNOW HOW I WAS GOING TO THE CORNER STORE?

It's nothing.

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? WHAT CENTURY?

I DEPRIVE MYSELF OF EVERYTHING ELSE, SO I THINK I'M ALLOWED ONE LITTLE BEER.

AND THEY WERE SAYING, "HE TOTALLY LOOKS LIKE JOHNNY DEPP!"

And he's wearing a katakana t-shirt!!

He looks *just* like him!

WELL, I NOTICED THAT A COUPLE OF TEENAGE GIRLS KEPT GLANCING OVER AT ME.

FOR REAL.

I THINK THE 21ST CENTURY IS FINALLY MY TIME TO BE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES.

So I bought a movie magazine.

NOD NOD

DVD ¥999

TEENAGE GIRLS SAID THAT?!

...FOR REAL?!

I'M HOME...

30 MIN. LATER

Hope you don't mind udon noodles for dinner.

YO, BUDDHA. HOW'D IT GO?

TWEET TWEET

HAIK HOOOOIK

THIS... IS A GOOD ERA...

YOU SHOULD TRY GOING OUT, TOO, BUDDHA.

...

YOU DON'T NEED AN EXCUSE, BUDDHA-BUDDY.

UH, YEAH, I THINK I'M GONNA GO BUY SOME INCENSE STICKS.

DO YOUR BUDDHA-BEST!

...I RAN INTO SOME NEIGHBOR-HOOD KIDS.

THEY... POKED AT... THIS SPOT.

I NEVER REALIZED IT BEFORE.

PRESSING ON THIS HURTS LIKE CRAZY.

NOD

NOD

YEAH...

...ARE YOU OKAY? DOES IT HURT?

HA HA HA. YOU'RE FAMOUS.

I HEARD THE TEENAGE GIRLS AT THE CORNER STORE SAY, "HE TOTALLY LOOKS LIKE BUDDHA!"

Ha ha ha

I got us some ice cream.

...WOULD I BE AWAKENED TO THE REALITY OF THIS WEAKNESS.

TO THINK, ONLY *AFTER* ATTAINING ENLIGHTEN-MENT...

HA HA! THAT REMINDS ME.

GRIN

...Well, they both come in packs of two, so I guess we'll each have half.
...How can you expect me to choose one over the other?!
Papico or Yukimi Daifuku...
I can't!!

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

JESUS, THE SON OF GOD.

KNOWN TO ALL AS THE FOUNDERS OF BUDDHISM AND CHRISTIANITY.

BUD-DHA, THE EN-LIGHT-ENED ONE.

THOSE SEEKING SALVATION...

PEOPLE NATURALLY FLOCK TO THEIR PRESENCE.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? I GUESS I SHOULD SAY SOME-THING.

OH, NO... THEY'RE FORMING A LINE.

GLANCE

FLIP

THAT FACT...

GLANCE

...REST THEIR WEAK AND WAVERING HEARTS...

...UPON THESE STRONG, GENTLE SHOULDERS...

I SHOULD TELL THEM THE TRAIN DOORS AREN'T GOING TO OPEN HERE...

...RE-MAINS TRUE, EVEN IN MOD-ERN-DAY JAPAN.

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 2

Most Holy Travels

BUDDHA: I SECRETLY TRIED LEARNING PIANO, BUT WHEN I FOUND MYSELF SURROUNDED BY MY ARCH-NEMESES—SCHOOL CHILDREN—I GAVE IT UP.

...JESUS AND BUDDHA ARE CURRENTLY SHARING AN APARTMENT ON EARTH AS THEY ENJOY SOME WELL-EARNED TIME OFF.

AFTER SUCCESS-FULLY BRINGING THE PREVIOUS CENTURY TO A CLOSE...

I WAS SO WRAPPED UP IN MY *RURUBU* TRAVEL GUIDE, I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.

Hah hah hah

SIGH...

I'M SURE ALL THOSE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SIT DOWN.

I FEEL BAD ABOUT WHAT HAP-PENED...

JESUS: I'M INTERESTED IN LEARNING THE THEREMIN.

ACTUALLY, IT'S A PLACE I'D BEEN INTERESTED IN SEEING SINCE BEFORE WE CAME DOWN TO EARTH.

IT DID!

SO DID THE *RURUBU* HAVE ANY GOOD PLACES?

IT'S OKAY. WE JUST HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME.

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, BUDDHA!

CARE-FREE

SHIRT: MILLENNIUM

THEN WE'LL GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION, OKAY?

CAN WE?!

WELL THEN, LET'S GO SEE IT!

GRIN!

ニコ！

ROGER THAT!

AND *YOU* DON'T WORRY ENOUGH, JESUS!

THE DOORS ON THE RIGHT SIDE WILL OPEN.

あさくさ
浅草
Asakusa
田原町

ASAKUSA! ASAKUSA!

BUDDHA, IT SAYS WE CAN GET TO SENSOJI TEMPLE FROM THE NORTH EXIT!

*STEAMED CAKES WITH RED BEAN FILLING

THEY MAKE ME FEEL VERY AT HOME.

OH, I LIKE THEM...

WHAT, DON'T YOU LIKE BUDDHIST TEMPLES?

RIGHT AT HOME

SIGN: SUGAMO JIZŌ-DŌRI SHIRT: MILLENIUM

WHAT? HA HA HA! DON'T WORRY, IT'LL BE FINE!

BUT ME, VISITING ASAKUSA?

IT'D BE LIKE SETTING YONG-SAMA LOOSE IN SUGAMO, OR MARK HAMILL AT A STAR WARS CONVENTION.

...JESUS?

I JUST REALLY WANTED TO TRY THE DEEP FRIED MANJU*.

We're leaving? Not transferring?

ARE YOU DOING THIS ON PUR-POSE?

COME ON! REGULAR PERMS AREN'T THIS TIGHT!

CLANG

No worries!

YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MUCH YOU LOOK LIKE JUST A REGULAR DUDE WITH A MAN PERM.

<Hey.>

PAT PAT PAT

Nope, nope, nope.

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU HERE.

IF YOU WANT THOSE DEEP FRIED MANJU, GO BUY THEM YOURSELF.

<NO!>

Yah!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO GIVE THEM THE POSE AND GET THIS OVER WITH!

HOLD ON...!

<Pose, please!>

HUH?!

<Photo, okay?>

SHIRT: NIRVANA

HUH?

<Non, non.>

<Please do the one...>

SFF

UGH, *THIS* IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO COME TO ASAKUSA!

JUST A— JESUS!!!

WELL THEN, I'LL BE ABOUT FIVE MINUTES!

<Oh, thank you!>

シーッ!!

<Ninja! Ninja!>

SNAP SNAP SNAP SNAP

<So hot!! So cool!!>

THUS, HE LEARNED THAT THESE TOURISTS HELD THE SAME STEREO-TYPES FOR ALL OF ASIA.

OKAY, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT... THEN FINE...

<Asian beauty !!!>

DID YOU BUY IT WHILE I WAS GONE?

HEY, BUDDHA, WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

TEP たっ TEP たっ TEP たっ

I *HAD* TO BUY IT!

UGH...

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU *MUST* HAVE, THEN YOU CAN BUY IT.

AWW, BUT I WANT A SOUVENIR, TOO...

Ugh!

*A CELL PHONE SERVICE PROVIDER

YOU DON'T NEED ONE!

LUCKY... MAYBE I SHOULD BUY AN ASAKUSA CAP, TOO!

FUME フー

I don't know...

FUME フー

I BOUGHT IT SO I COULD BLEND INTO THE CROWD.

GOOD IDEA.

I'LL JUST WAIT UNTIL DESTINY SHOWS ME—

Wow, they even have a Docomo* store in here.

MAKE SURE IT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL USE LATER.

キョロ GLANCE

キョロ GLANCE

午後の茶
KATOCHAN TEA
¥1000
SOUVENIRS
新撰組
SHINSEN GUMI
(Samurai)
SET!!
YOU, TOO, CAN BE HIJIKATA!! OR KondÔ!!
FULL SET 8000_
¥1000
新撰組
新撰組
800_
ズーン
TA-TWANG
THEY MIGHT COME OUT WITH A NEWER VERSION WITH MORE FEATURES...
BUT IS NOW THE TIME?
MOBILE Wallet
BUDDHA!
I KNOW I'M GOING TO WANT TO BUY ONE EVENTU-ALLY...
STAHARE
HMMM ...
?!
IT'S A SHINSEN-GUMI SET!
浅草
LOOK WHAT I GOT!

...HAVE... IT...

Huh?

I SAW IT AND I HAD TO...

I TOLD YOU. A SHINSEN-GUMI SET.

...HUH?

UH, *WHAT'S* IN THE PAPER BAG?

YOU BOUGHT THAT?!

UH, UM, BUDDHA, WHEN YOU GLOW LIKE THAT... IT'S KIND OF... UM...

S-SORRY ...

FLAASH

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING WHEN I TOLD YOU TO BUY SOMETHING YOU'LL USE LATER?

AND... WHAT... ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?

*ABOUT $80

BUT IT'S OKAY!!

I REALLY AM GOING TO USE IT!

FLAASH

E...EIGHT THOUSAND YEN*...

HOW MUCH DID IT COST?

WE HAVE TO PAY THE RENT IN TWO DAYS.

NIRVANA

I'M GOING TO USE IT...

...AS PAJA-MAS!!

...TO BRING JAPANESE CULTURE INTO MY DAILY LIFE!

BECAUSE I WANT...

HE'S SCARY WHEN HE'S MAD.

UH-HUH.

WE'LL USE IT... AS A CLOTHES-LINE...

AND WE CAN USE THE KATANA AS A CLOTHESLINE.

SHLRM

OH, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

AHH, THAT WAS SO MUCH FUN!

BUT NOW WE HAVE TO CATCH THE LAST TRAIN OF THE DAY.

WAAH!!

WHOOSH

WHAT? COMMUTER EXPRESS?

PSHHH

COMMUTER EXPRESS NOW ARRIVING.

ACK!

SHOVE

GO ON, BOYS! YOU CAN DO IT!

CLANG

...JIMINY CRICKETS ...

LOOK AT THAT! THEY'RE PACKED IN THERE LIKE SARDINES.

WOW, I DON'T THINK THEY CAN FIT ANYONE ELSE!

OW!!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

SQUISH

SQUISH

WHAT'S THAT AROUND YOUR HEAD?! YOU COULD HURT SOME-BODY!!

HEY, YOU!

HUH?!

WHAT? N-NO, I DON'T THINK THAT!!

YOU THINK YOU'RE SID VICIOUS OR SOME-THING? GET A HAIRCUT, HIPPIE!!

KIDS AND THEIR FASHION THESE DAYS—IT'S ALL SPIKES THIS AND THORNS THAT...

SQUISH ぎゅう

SQUISH ぎゅう

...ANY-WAY...

WELL, I'LL SEE HIM WHEN WE GET OFF AT OUR STATION.

HUH?

I DON'T WEAR THIS TO STICK IT TO THE MAN...

WHERE DID JESUS GO? HE IS ON THE TRAIN, RIGHT?

...IT'S LIKE I'M FLOATING OFF THE GROUND.

KA-CREAK キキー

...BEING CRAMMED IN LIKE THIS...

...IT'S KIND OF AMAZ-ING...

CREAK キー

AAAHH, I'VE FOUND HEAVEN ON EARTH. ♡

LIKE THEY'RE GIVING ME A GREAT, BIG HUG...

LIKE ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTING ME, HOLDING ME UP...

THAT'S NICE.

THESE FINE MEN ALL LOOK SO HAPPY...

I MEAN... IT DOES SMELL A LITTLE LIKE BOOZE.

BUT...

WHEE!

ニルヴァ

WHEE!

NEXT STOP, PLEASE!

GRIND ぐりぐり GRIND

ZHI ZHI ZHI ZHI ZHI ZHI

SUCH WONDERFUL SMILES...

SHOONK

WHAT THE—? LOOKIE HERE, I FOUND A BUTTON!

PLEASE, DON'T! THAT REALLY HURTS!

SQUISH

ぎゃう

OH?

SQUISH

ぎゃう

OWWWWWW!

OW!

WAIT A...! NO!

HEY! ONE DRINK BAR ORDER, PLEASE!

SHOONK

SHOONK

OW!

WHEE! HELLO, SACHIKO? I'M BACK FROM WORK!!

HUFF...

HUFF...

TACHI-KAWA. TACHI-KAWA.

I FELT LIKE I WAS ON THAT TRAIN FOR A HUNDRED YEARS.

WHEEZE

WHEEZE

I-I HAD NO IDEA THE COMMUTER EXPRESS WAS SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE...

GENTLE-MEN, YOU ARE TOO DRUNK...

YANK

?!!

J-
JESUS!

WHEW.
ANYWAY,
WHERE'S
BUDDHA?

I WOULD
LOVE
NOTHING
MORE THAN
TO GET OFF
THIS TRAIN!

B
R
R
R
R
I
N
G

BUDDHA!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

GET OFF THAT
TRAIN! THIS
IS THE LAST
ONE UNTIL
TOMORROW!

PSHHH

THEY'RE
CONVINCED
I'M A PAIR
OF HAND-
HOLDS.

WAAAH!!

LOOK
AT ME.

BUT
HOW?

SO YOU'LL STAY AT A MANGA CAFE UNTIL THE TRAINS START RUNNING.

YEAH, I THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

OH, OKAY...

OH, HOW'D YOU KNOW? YEAH, I'M ALREADY WEARING IT.

HUH?

THAT NIGHT, JESUS DREAMED THAT HE WAS ITŌ KASHITARŌ OF THE SHINSEN-GUMI.

1835 ~ 1867

YEAH, LET'S GO AGAIN SOMETIME.

YEAH.

YOU SHOULD READ A MANGA ABOUT THE SHINSENGUMI WHILE YOU'RE THERE.

MANGA: BUDDHA, OSAMU TEZUKA

...BECAME DEPRESSED AFTER IMPULSE-BUYING THE ENTIRE BUDDHA MANGA SERIES.

OSAMU TEZUKA, YOU'RE AMAZING...

HNGH...

POTATO CHIPS

AND BUDDHA ...

Hey, this is pretty good.
Ahh! How can you read so fast?!
And hey, that's volume two! Start at the beginning!
FLIP
FLIP
Unbelievable!!
Wait... That part isn't Funny!!
And don't eat while you're reading my books!!

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

THE WORLDS OF GODS AND BUDDHAS.

HEAVEN AND THE PURE LAND.

PEOPLE OF THE MORTAL WORLD LONG FOR THESE REALMS...

THEY ARE LANDS OF BLISSFUL DREAMS, WHERE THERE IS NO PAIN OR SUFFERING.

WELL, WE'RE PROBABLY THE SENIOR-EST OF SENIORS.

BUT I DON'T THINK WE CAN GET THE DIS-COUNT.

HEY, IT SAYS ANY-ONE OVER 80 GETS IN AT HALF PRICE.

DO WE COUNT AS SENIORS?

*ABOUT ¥80

AND CON-TRARI-WISE...

TWO TICKETS FOR NON-MINORS WILL COME TO 8,000 YEN*...

NON-MINOR FIGURES? WELL, IN THAT CASE...

...AND CREATE EARTHLY HAVENS OF THEIR OWN, PATTERNED AFTER THOSE ABOVE.

TOKYO

NEXT GUEST, PLEASE!

...THE GODS LONG FOR THESE MAN-MADE PARA-DISES.

...WE'LL TAKE TWO TICKETS FOR MAJOR FIGURES, PLEASE.

TOKYO

スジャータ

like Is not ambitious.

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: SUJATA

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 3

Another Paradise

...JESUS AND BUDDHA ARE CURRENTLY SHARING AN APARTMENT ON EARTH AS THEY ENJOY A WELL-EARNED VACATION.

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY BRINGING THE PREVIOUS CENTURY TO A CLOSE...

BUDDHA: SINCE WE'RE IN JAPAN, I'D LIKE TO GO SEE KYOTO.

COME ON, YOU HAVE TO TAKE THEM OFF FOR A MINUTE OR SHE CAN'T RING YOU UP!

YES!

DO YOU WANT TO WEAR THEM RIGHT NOW?

WELL, IT'S A SHAME WE'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO USE THEM TODAY...

BEEP

BUT THIS IS A NICE SURPRISE! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D LET ME BUY THIS KIND OF THING.

SHE SAYS IT'S OKAY!

OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT. HE CAN KEEP THEM ON...

BEEP

Hee hee hee.

UGH, I'M SO SORRY!

BEEP

SOME-TIMES, EVEN I...

...BUT WHEN YOU COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS, YOU HAVE TO LET LOOSE A LITTLE.

...CAN SPLURGE ON...

BEEP

BEEP

HUH?

UM...

GRG ギリ

ギリ GRG

Where's the tag?

HE CAME IN WITH THAT, MISS.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK BEFORE, SO I'LL JUST FOLLOW YOU.

REALLY?

THEN THERE IS SOMETHING I KIND OF WANTED TO TRY...

SFF

WHEW, THAT KIND OF FREAKED ME OUT...

IT'S OKAY, SHAKE IT OFF. WHAT RIDE DO YOU WANT TO GO ON?

OKAY, BUT WHAT DOES THAT NUMBER MEAN?

120 Minutes from this point

THAT'S THE WAIT TIME.

...WE HAVE TO WAIT 120 MINUTES?!

WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOOD AT THAT!

IT'S NOT LIKE I DID THAT FOR FUN, YOU KNOW!

Just think of it like that.

WEREN'T YOU ONCE REALLY INTO STANDING UNDER THE BLAZING HOT SUN FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME?

OH!!

SKOOTCH

YEAH, NO KID-DING...

FAN 11°

FAN 11°

BUT WAITING WILL BE TOUGH IN THIS HEAT.

WELL, IT IS WHAT IT IS.

JUST KIDDING, BUDDHA. COME ON, YOU CAN USE IT.

YOINK

AH!

UGH, MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE AROUND THAT'S COOL...

スゥー

HEH HEH HEH...

AWWW, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THAT'S NOT FAIR!

THIS POLE IS NICE AND COLD!

HEH HEH HEH. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

MY EARLOBES ARE NICE AND COLD...

COOOOL

EUREKA ...

OH, JESUS, THE LINE'S MOVING. GET AWAY FROM THAT POLE!

WHEW...

I'D HEARD THAT TOUCHING YOUR EARLOBES HELPS WHEN YOU GET A BURN, BUT NOW I KNOW IT'S TRUE.

JESUS COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO ASK, "LET ME HOLD ONE."

CHILL

...OKAY...

JESUS: SINCE WE'RE IN JAPAN, I'D LIKE TO GO SEE AKIHABARA.

NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...

OH! WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

THERE ARE TWO LINES. PLEASE KEEP YOUR PARTY TOGETHER.

EEEEEE-A

WHAT KIND OF RIDE IS THIS "BLACK SUNDAY MOUNTAIN"?

I NEVER HEARD OF THAT... I THOUGHT PEOPLE CAME TO AMUSEMENT PARKS TO HAVE FUN!

THEY TAKE YOU WAY UP HIGH, THEN THEY SPIN YOU AROUND, DROP YOU...

I DON'T WANT TO GO ON A RIDE LIKE THAT!

YOU'LL BE FINE!

I MEAN SURE, THE FIRST TIME I WENT ON ONE...

HA HA HA HA

...MAKE YOU SCREAM?!

NOD コクリ

WELL, YEAH. HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF A ROLLER COASTER?

...UH, JESUS. DID YOU HEAR A SCREAM?

HA HA HA HA...

WELL, OF COURSE I DID! THIS RIDE IS DESIGNED TO MAKE YOU SCREAM!

IT WAS TERRIFYING ENOUGH TO MOVE THE HEAVENS?!

Did your heart just stop?!

Were you being persecuted?!

I'm totally okay!!

I'm fine!

Try it once and you'll be hooked!

...SOME ANGELS PANICKED AND CAME TO SAVE ME, BUT STILL.

WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT? THEY SOUND LIKE ASCETIC MONKS.

I MEAN, LOOK AT THOSE KIDS. THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW THEY'RE GOING TO LET GO OF THE SAFETY BAR WHEN THEY'RE GOING DOWN THE DROP.

COME ON, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

WE ASK THAT ANY GUEST SHORTER THAN 140 CM...

WHEW

WHIRRR

OH! HE HAS A POINT. ...IF THEY'RE HOLDING ME THIS SECURELY IN PLACE...

...PLEASE NOT RIDE, DUE TO RISK OF DEATH.

ゴォン GONG

Have fun!

GONG ゴォン

...OR OLDER THAN 80 YEARS...

I DON'T WANNA GO!

PLEASE HURRY, SIR!

Come on, it's okay.

DON'T WORRY. THEY MAKE SURE YOU STAY RIGHT IN YOUR SEAT.

HEY BUDDHA, LET'S SHOUT SOMETHING.

WHOOOOSH

観自在菩薩。行深般若波羅蜜多時。照見五蘊皆空。度一切苦厄。舍利子。

HA HA HA, COME ON, BUDDHA, THAT'S TOO LONG.

...BUT WHEN WE REACH THE DROP, I THINK SHOUTING SOMETHING WILL BE THE BEST I CAN MANAGE.

GONG ゴワーン

HMMM, I WANT TO LET GO, TOO...

Woo-hoo...

GONG ゴワーン

*RECITATION OF THE HEART SUTRA

PICK SOME-THING SHORTER ...

色不異空。空不異色。色即是空。空即是色。受想行識亦復如是。舍利子。是諸法空相。不生不滅。不垢不淨。不増不減。是故空中無色。無受想行識。無眼耳鼻舌身意。無色声香味触法。無眼界乃至無意識界。無無明亦無無明尽。乃至無老死亦無老死尽。無苦集滅道。無智亦無得。以無所得故。菩提薩埵。依般若波羅蜜多故。心無

...BUDDHA?

UM... ARE YOU OKAY?!

WHAT? ARE YOU THAT SCARED?!

Do you hear somebody reciting a sutra?!

LISTEN, YOU'RE FREAKING OUT THE OTHER GUESTS.

Stop it!! I don't hear anything, okay?!

DID YOU GET THINNER SINCE WE GOT ON?!

GRG ギ

GRG ギ"

GRG ギ"

WAIT A— BUDDHA!

KA-CLUNK

WOW, LOOK AT THE GUY WITH THE MAN PERM.

W...

THAT'S THE MOST PEACEFUL "HANDS-IN-THE-AIR" POSE I'VE EVER SEEN...

I...I'M SORRY, BUDDHA. ARE YOU MAD?

HE MUST BE A ROLLER COASTER FANATIC!

JESUS COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO ASK, "WHY ARE YOU SPEAKING SO FORMALLY?"

HOWEVER, AS WE FELL, I BECAME ENLIGHTENED TO THE INSIGNIFICANCE OF IT ALL.

MAD? INDEED, I WAS QUITE ANGRY AS WE ASCENDED TOWARDS THE TOP.

OH...

SMILE

THIS WALK-WAY IS CLOSED!

THE NIGHT-TIME PARADE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

OOOHHH!

I'VE HEARD REALLY GOOD THINGS ABOUT THIS SEASON'S PARADE.

OH, IT'S THAT TIME ALREADY.

WAIT, WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO WATCH THE PARADE?

A SOU-VENIR?

N-NO!

スーパーター

?!

WOW, REALLY? THEN...

POING ワワ ワワ POING

IT'S SO POPULAR THAT YOU HAVE TO GRAB A SPOT REALLY FAST, OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE IT.

NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO BUY A SOUVENIR!

...ALL THE SHOPS WILL BE EMPTY!

OH, IT'S FOR MOM?

TO THANK HER FOR THE RICE SHE SENT US THE OTHER DAY.

FOR MARY-SAN.

I WAS JUST WONDERING WHO YOU'RE BUYING IT FOR...

*I GUESS IT'S ONLY FAIR. I **DID** DRAG HIM ON THE ROLLER COASTER EARLIER...*

DUN

DA-DA-

DUN!!!

SHE DOES BUY ONE EVERY TIME SHE GOES SOMEWHERE.

Something touristy.

THEN YOU SHOULD GET HER A T-SHIRT.

SO REALLY, WHATEVER WE GET WILL JUST END UP COMING BACK TO ME...

That's where we got these...

BUT ONCE SHE GETS ENOUGH OF THEM, SHE ALWAYS SENDS THEM TO YOU.

♪チャーンチャラ TRA ♪ TRA-LA-ラー LA♪

HIYA, PALS! I'M NICKEY RABBIT!!

♪ ♪ラーンラーンリー DIDDLE- DIDDLE- DEE ♪

IT'S TIME TO START THE PARADE!!

WHAT'S WITH YOUR SHIRT?

HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK, JESUS?

mIta

OH! YOU, TOO?

A-AND I TEND TO GET HEADACHES WHEN I'M SURROUNDED BY CROWDS...

...UNTIL THE PARADE IS OVER?

THEN WHY DON'T WE JUST STAY RIGHT HERE...

GRIN!!

HUH?!

...UH, JESUS. ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU WANT TO WATCH THE PARADE?

NO, I JUST LOVE SOUVENIR SHOPS!

"Mitai"... That means "I want to watch"...

WHAT'S WRONG, JESUS? THAT'S A LOT OF BLOOD!

HA-HA-HALLE-LUJAH.

GREAT IDEA.

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED WHEN WE WERE HAVING THAT "VIRTUA FIGHTER" TOURNAMENT, AND YOU WANTED ME TO GO EASY ON YOU, BUT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO ASK.

NNNGH...

WIPE

WIPE

JUST A...

AAAAH!!

OH! SORRY, I GOT SOME DUST IN MY EYE, AND MY STIGMATA...

I'm sorry!

UGH, YOU BIG DUMMY! YOU *DO* WANT TO WATCH THE PARADE, DON'T YOU?!

BESIDES, JESUS, I NEED YOU TO BE DEMANDING.

THAT'S OKAY!

I'M SORRY, BUDDHA. I'M BEING SO DEMAND-ING.

LEFT TO MY OWN DEVICES, I WOULD HAVE SPENT MY WHOLE VACATION MEDITATING.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD TAKE A VACATION DOWN ON EARTH, REMEMBER?

BUDDHA...

AH HA HA, COME ON, YOU'RE OVER-REACTING!

GLOMP

YOU'RE THE BEST!

YOUR—

YOUR DEMANDS ...

...HAVE BROUGHT ME SAL-VATION.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO SAY VIRTUOUS THINGS LIKE THAT WHEN WE'RE OUTSIDE AFTER DARK!

SHOONK

YOUR HALO IS GLOWING!!

NO GOOD! THE LIGHT SHINES THROUGH THE PLASTIC BAG!

THAT MADE ME LIGHT UP?! OH, NO!!

FLASH!!

IT'S SO PRETTY.

GLITTER

GLITTER

OH! IS THERE A PARADE OR SOMETHING GOING ON OVER THERE, TOO?

SOME IDEA... SOME...

AHA!!

YOU NEED TO GIVE ME AN IDEA!

I CAN'T! I'M A BUDDHA ...

I can't do it!

What's that?

BUT I CAN'T— I'M THE SON OF GOD!

YOU HAVE TO BE LESS VIRTUOUS! THINK OF SOMETHING VULGAR!

What's going on?

S-SOME-THING VULGAR?

...IS TRUE TO THE MOVIE!!

THE LENGTH OF TINKY BELL'S SKIRT...

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED.

AWW, IT'S OVER...

FZHT

...WAS A SILENT AFFAIR.

KA-CLANK

THE MONORAIL RIDE HOME...

KA-CLANK

Happy Halloween From Tinky Bell!!
. . .
. . .
HUSH
. . .

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

VARIOUS PAINTINGS PORTRAY THE HANDS OF BUDDHA AND JESUS AS VERY GENTLE.

...WHEN THE MASSES REACH OUT TO THEM, SEEKING SALVATION...

ALTHOUGH THEY EACH HAVE ONLY TWO ARMS...

I...I REALLY NEED TO GO!!

OH, DON'T WORRY! JUST TAKE A LOOK!!

JUST ONE LOOK AND YOU CAN BE ON YOUR WAY!!

...SOME-TIMES...

BUT...

PLEASE... I... UH...!!

...TAKE THOSE HANDS IN THEIRS.

...THEY ALWAYS...

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: LOTUS SUTRA

...THERE COMES A TIME WHEN THOSE HANDS SHOULD BE BRUSHED ASIDE!

LOOK AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!!

TAKE A LOOK !!

SHOCKING SALE FEST

TACHIKA

HUSTLE SHO

YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE DEALS YOU'LL FIND!!

WE HAVE LOW PRIC-ES!

RE

ほけきょう

MANATSU

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 4

Debut Performance

BUDDHA: I'VE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN LEAH DIZON, AND I'M TRYING TO DECIDE IF I SHOULD GET HER PHOTO COLLECTION.

...JESUS AND BUDDHA ARE CURRENTLY SHARING AN APARTMENT ON EARTH AS THEY ENJOY SOME WELL-EARNED TIME OFF.

HUSTLE BARGAIN FESTIVAL

TACHIKAWA HUSTLE SHOPPING STREET

SUPER MARKET HANAWA

Makegawa

AFTER SUCCESS-FULLY BRINGING THE PREVIOUS CENTURY TO A CLOSE...

JESUS: I KNOW WHAT NATION-ALITY LEAH DIZON REALLY IS.

THEY'RE HAVING MAJOR SALES IN EVERY SHOP ON THE STREET.

TOEI

HERE, IT'S ON THE FLIER.

STLE BARGAIN FE

パラッ FLIP

WHAT HAPPENED? THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THE SHOPPING DISTRICT TODAY.

OKAY, JESUS, IF YOU'RE DONE LOOKING, GIVE IT BACK...

Nopa cabbage ¥50

Koshihikari Rice 2kg ¥2

Toilet Paper rolls Per person ¥100

Soy Sauce ¥2

Cookies

WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD EVENTS LIKE THIS.

Ha ha... This flier is awfully thick...

NOT THAT THE FESTIVAL REALLY AFFECTS US MUCH, THOUGH...

SNACK FOODS

JUICE →

Senbei-kun

Consomme-kun

100

OUT OF 5,000 YEN...

TIME TO RUN!

HUSTLE BARGAIN

Matsunaga

DASH!

UH... YEAH...

THANK YOU!

LOTTERY TICKET

Hustle Shopping Street

YOU GET 750 YEN IN CHANGE ALONG WITH YOUR LOTTERY TICKETS.

OH! THEY'RE DOING A LOTTERY, TOO!

FIVE TICKETS GIVE YOU ONE SPIN, WHICH MEANS...

COOL.

HUSTLE

HUSTLE

Oohh.

WOW. FIRST PRIZE IS A TRIP TO OKINAWA!

13

...

...Three?

YOU KNOW ...

TWO CHANCES! ISN'T IT GREAT?

3

...WITH 14 TICKETS, WE GET THREE TRIES...

WE WOULD GET *THREE* CHANCES... RIGHT?

WE JUST NEED ONE MORE... IF WE BUY SOMETHING FOR 300 YEN...

WHISPER

NO... ONLY TWO...

IS THERE A REASON YOU'RE HOLDING UP FEWER FINGERS NOW?

GULP

...SO, HEY...

BUT WE WON'T.

2

BUT *WHY* CAN'T WE BUY SOMETHING? DON'T ACT LIKE IT'S ABOUT SAVING MONEY!

You're scaring me!!

I KNEW IT!

THIS IS MY BUDDHA-FACE COUNT-DOWN.

AT LEAST LET ME SHARE IN SOME OF *THAT* EXCITEMENT.

OH, YEAH. WELL... I'VE SAVED UP QUITE A LOT BY NOW.

けまう

F-FINE...

BESIDES, I ONLY BUY ONE LOAF OF BREAD A WEEK!

SO TELL ME, HOW MANY MORE DO YOU NEED TO GET THE PLATE?

けまう

SUMMER BREAD PLATE GIVEAWAY

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEEPS BUYING YAMAGIWA BREAD JUST SO YOU CAN GET THE MOOMEN BREAD PLATE!

IT'S OKAY IF YOU *KNOW* YOU'RE GOING TO GET THE PRIZE!

けまう

SUMMER YAMAGIWA BREAD FAIR
Get one of these!
I JUST NEED...
COUNTING THE POINT I GOT TODAY...

...YOU'LL GET IT IN ANOTHER WEEK?
JUST ONE POINT LEFT, HUH? THAT MEANS...

AND THUS, THE DARK PACT WAS SEALED.
WHAT? WELL... MAYBE ABOUT 300 YEN'S WORTH...
RIGHT NOW?
...SO JESUS... WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN THE MOOD FOR SOME MELON PAN?

WHEN IT'S TIME TO ACTUALLY SPIN, IT SEEMS LIKE NO AMOUNT OF CHANCES WILL BE ENOUGH.

LOTTERY

LOTTERY 5 TICKETS

THREE TRIES, HUH?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

OH, YOU GO AHEAD, JESUS. I DON'T MIND.

B-DMP

B-DMP

THE QUESTION IS, WHO WILL SPIN THE BOX.

...INDEED! FOR EXAMPLE...

You're sparkling...

LUCKY?...

WHAT? BUT I GOT FOOD POISONING FROM EATING MUSHROOMS.

Are you sure it's safe?

Hoh? This smells weird.

Down-trodden

CONSIDERING HOW EACH OF US DIED... I'M GOING TO SAY I HAD WAY LESS LUCK.

GLARE

WHAT I MEAN IS, WHICH ONE OF US WILL BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO WIN A TRIP TO OKINAWA?

THIS REQUIRES SOME SERIOUS DELIBERA-TION!

YEAH, BUT YOU STILL EAT THEM! IT AMAZES ME EVERY TIME I SEE IT!

That takes guts!

I CAN ONLY BUY REALLY EXPENSIVE ONES FROM TRUSTWORTHY FARMS!

I'VE HAD MUSH-ROOM TRAUMA EVER SINCE...

See? This is 300 yen on sale!

Safe Mushrooms

I grew them!

Yu Andō

YES! ON MY CROWN OF THORNS!

!

OKAY, SO HAS ANYTHING LUCKY HAPPENED TO YOU LATELY?

OH! THAT REMINDS ME.

SPEAKING OF SIGNS OF GOOD LUCK...

UH... I DON'T KNOW...

I THINK IT HAS TO BE A SIGN OF GOOD LUCK.

I water it.

B-DMP

B-DMP

IT'D BE PRETTY EMBARRASS-ING IF IT BLOOMED...

LOOK RIGHT HERE.

THERE'S A BUD.

I GOT SOME PINO ICE CREAM YESTERDAY, AND I HAD TWO HEART-SHAPED ONES IN ONE BOX.

I took a picture.

IT'S DECID-ED!!

DON'T WORRY! I WON'T GET MAD EVEN IF WE GET THREE PACKS OF CONSOLATION TISSUES!

Y-YOU'D BETTER MEAN THAT!

BUDDHA! YOU HAVE TO BE THE ONE!

NEXT, PLEASE!

BASED ON ICE CREAM?!

ZHRR

ZHRR

THEN DON'T BLAME ME FOR WHAT HAPPENS!

WHAAAAT!!

CLANG

WHAT ...?

CLANG

CONGRAT-ULATIONS!

SECOND PRIZE! YOU GOT SECOND PRIZE!!

GRNK

NAMU-SAN!!

OH!

I DON'T MIND! YOU'RE AMAZING, BUDDHA!

I MEAN, IT'S SECOND PRIZE!

Oohh! That's impres-sive, young man!

OH, BUT I DIDN'T WIN THE VACA-TION...

SECOND PRIZE IS REALLY —

Third Prize

Provided by "Yamada Electron-ics"

Second Prize

Provided by "Ishii Buddha Statues"

ENERGY SAVER No.1

IT COMES FROM ISHII BUDDHA STATUES RIGHT HERE IN HUSTLE SHOPPING STREET, AND...

Ooohhh!!

YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE THIS!

IN OTHER WORDS, HE WON A LIFE-SIZED FIGURE OF HIMSELF.

IT DOES LOOK LIKE YOU!

BUT... UM...

...I WISH I HAD FORBIDDEN IDOL WORSHIP.

I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D ACTUALLY MAKE US CARRY IT HOME OURSELVES...

It's huge.

NNNGH, THIS IS SO HEAVY!

OH!

YOU THERE!!

YEAH, THAT WOULD BE CUTE. I THINK I LIKE IT.

BUDDHA STATUES SHOULD ONLY BE MADE WITH CLOTH AND STUFFING.

...HUSTLING BATTLE?

COM-EDY...

YOU LOOK LIKE A COUPLE OF BOYS WHO ARE REALLY IN SYNC WITH EACH OTHER!!

Y-YES?

THE THING IS, I'M ON THE COMMITTEE FOR THIS EVENT...

RIGHT, JESUS? WE'RE NOT A COMEDY DUO...

YOU... YOU WANT US TO ENTER? WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY!

WE COULDN'T GET NEARLY ENOUGH PEOPLE TO SIGN UP.

I was hoping you'd help.

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!

BAP

ほけきょう

YOU'LL DO IT? MY SAVIORS!

NO, NO! I'D LIKE TO THANK *YOU*...

FOR GIVING US THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTU-NITY.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO FORM A COMEDY DUO WITH YOU SO I COULD TELL THEM TO THE WORLD.

Avec toi!

YOU'VE BEEN EYEING ME LIKE THAT, ALL THIS TIME?!

...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, JESUS? WE DON'T HAVE ANY JOKES.

SFF

Jokes

ほけきょう

I HAVE A TON OF JOKES THAT I'VE BEEN SITTING ON SINCE BEFORE WE EVEN CAME DOWN HERE.

NO! I MEAN, I LIKE COMEDY, TOO, BUT...

INCIDEN-TALLY, THE FIRST PLACE WINNERS WILL GET A GIFT CARD FOR A SUPPLY OF RICE!

ほけきょう

...FOR THE FIRST NEIGHBORHOOD COMEDY HUSTLING BATTLE!!

PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER...

...HM? WAIT... THE AUDIENCE IS FULL OF OLD FOLKS...

What's up with that?!

RICE CARD...

NO, NOT WITH APPLAUSE! IF YOU LIKED THEM, TAKE THE BALL WE GAVE YOU, AND PLACE IT ON THE CHUTE!

CLAP

NOW I'D LIKE YOU IN THE AUDIENCE TO RATE THAT TEAM!

NO, I'M NOT GETTING THAT VIBE.

OH, REALLY? THAT SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER...

Jokes

I HAVEN'T HEARD A SINGLE CHUCKLE...

OH! THAT'S US!!

THE NEWLY FORMED DUO, MAN PERM AND HIPPIE!!

DASH

WE'VE GOTTA GO OUT THERE!

SILENCE

ANY-BODY ?

YEAH... OKAY! LET'S MOVE ON TO OUR NEXT PAIR!

AND I'M MAN PERM! IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE!

CLAP

CLAP

HI THERE, I'M HIPPIE!

CLAP

Man Perm and Hippie

THIS 'DO IS ACTUALLY ALL THE RAGE RIGHT NOW.

YOU THINK SO?

BUT THAT HAIR STYLE OF YOURS IS SO ORIGINAL!

THIS MAY SOUND ABRUPT, MAN PERM-KUN.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

TRY GIVING THEM A LITTLE PULL!

C-COME TO THINK OF IT, THOSE EARS ARE NICE, TOO!

ほけきょう

SAVE THAT FOR NEW YEAR'S!

BAP

NAMU-SAN!

CLUNK

IT'S THE "KAGAMI-MOCHI" LOOK...

ほけきょ

WHAT *UDDER* NON-SENSE!

YOU'LL GET SOME GOOD MILK!

...UH-HHH.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

THAT IS ALL.

BOW

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

WHAT'S GOING ON? THEY'RE ALL GIVING US...

WHAT?!

PLEASE, EVERY-ONE!

USE THE BALLS PROVID-ED!!

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

Comedy Hustling Battle (lol)

YOU'LL CLOG THE CHUTES!!

NO COINS, EITHER!!

We're not worthy! We're not worthy!

LADIES, DO NOT USE ORANGES OR DUMPLINGS!

LOOK AT THIS! I THOUGHT OF A GREAT ONE.

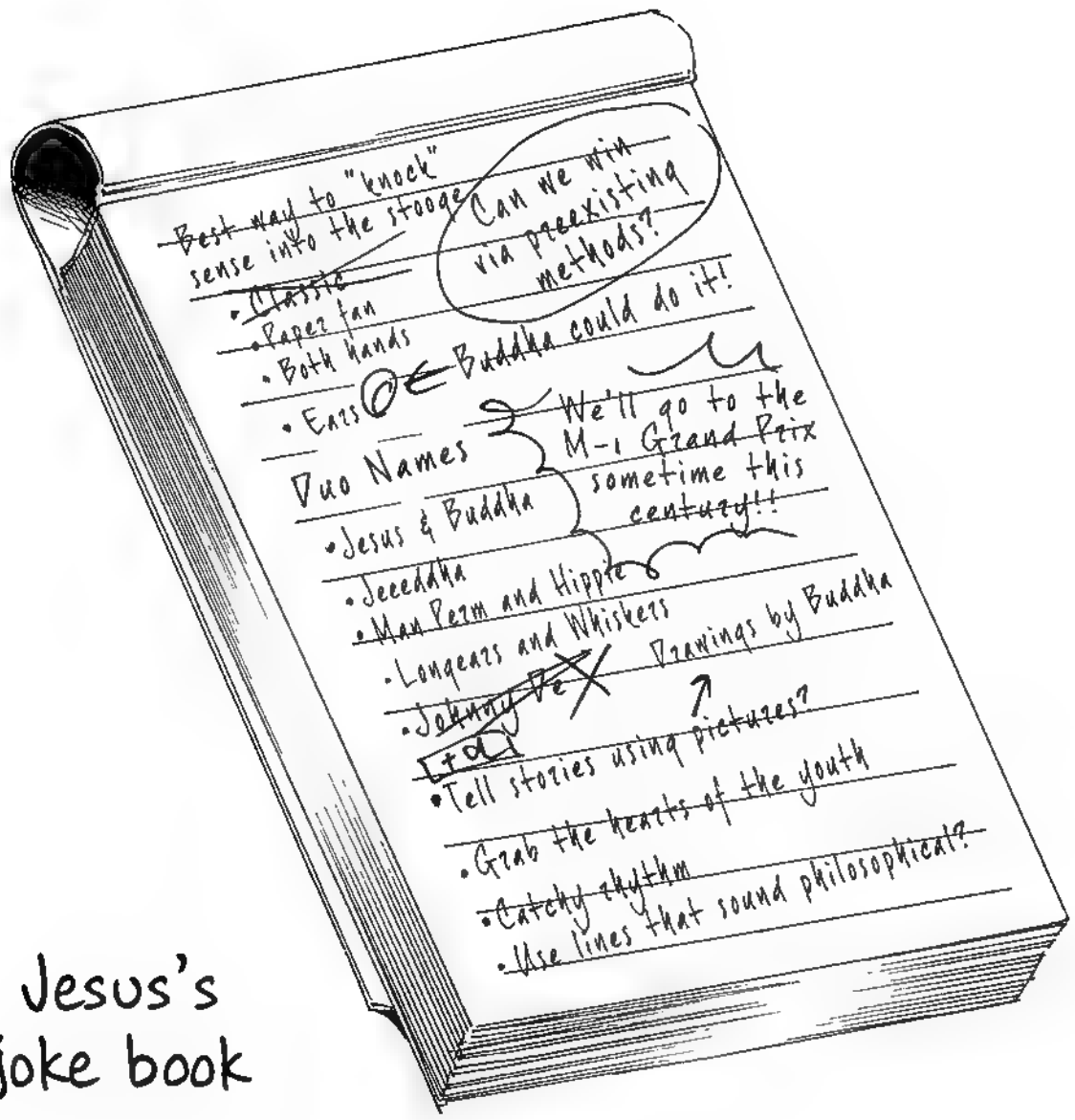
HEY, JESUS.

THUS, THE BATTLE WAS ENDED...

...AND THE DUO MADE A SOLEMN VOW TO TRY THIS AGAIN.

DON'T STEAL MY MATERIAL!

OUT-OF-BODY EXPERI-ENCE!


Best way to "knock" sense into the stooge
• Classic
• Paper fan
• Both hands
• Ears
Can we win via preexisting methods?
Buddha could do it!
Duo Names
• Jesus & Buddha
• Jeeeddha
• Man Perm and Hippie
We'll go to the M-1 Grand Prix sometime this century!!
• Longears and Whiskers
• Johnny Ve
• Tell stories using pictures?
Drawings by Buddha
• Grab the hearts of the youth
• Catchy rhythm
• Use lines that sound philosophical?

Jesus's joke book

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

ZSHHH

THE RAIN WON'T LET UP.

I KNOW YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO, BUDDHA, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO WASH OUR WINTER CLOTHES.

SNAP

I'M STARTING TO GET TIRED OF DRYING ALL OUR CLOTHES INSIDE...

Hmph

I HAVE HOBBIES!

YOU SHOULD GET A HOBBY THAT YOU CAN DO INSIDE.

SHIRTS: DREAM, RIGHT SIDE

I MEAN HOBBIES THAT WON'T LIGHT UP YOUR HALO!

MEDITATION, READING SUTRAS...

THAT'S WHY...

BUT THE VENTILATION FAN AND THE SINK ARE ALREADY SPOTLESS.

キラ SPARKLE

キラ SPARKLE

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

WHEN-EVER YOU GET BORED, YOU GO STRAIGHT TO DOING CHORES.

YOUR HOBBY SHOULDN'T ALSO BE YOUR JOB, YOU KNOW!

...I HAVE TAKEN UP SILK SCREEN-ING.

JESUS HAS NO IDEA THAT 30% OF OUR T-SHIRTS ARE MY OWN WORK...

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 5

Oh My Hobby

BUDDHA: I PREFER SOY SAUCE ON MY FRIED EGGS. SOMETIMES I LIKE TO PUT A SHICHIMI SPICE BLEND ON THEM.

WHAT DO YOU DO ON THAT COMPUTER?

ANYWAY, I'VE BEEN WONDERING SOMETHING FOR A WHILE NOW...

WINCE

WHAP

CLAMP

HUH?

YOU OPEN UP THAT LAPTOP WHENEVER YOU HAVE ANY FREE TIME.

SFF

HUH?

JESUS: I USED TO PUT BROWN SAUCE ON MY FRIED EGGS, BUT AFTER LIVING IN JAPAN, I SWITCHED TO SOY SAUCE.

NOD

NOD

DON'T WORRY! MY SEARCH HISTORY IS CLEAN!

NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT...!

...YOU'RE NOT CROSSING ANY LINES A GOD SHOULD NEVER CROSS, ARE YOU?

...JESUS?

HUSH

I'M PRETTY SURE I'M WRONG, BUT...

SHIRT: WHITE ELEPHANT

HUH?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF "BLOGS," BUDDHA?

GULP

?

I ONLY SEARCHED LEAH DIZON ONCE...

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT. IT'S, UH...

Y-YES... AS A MATTER OF FACT...

ACTUALLY, I STARTED IT WHEN WE WERE BACK IN THE HEAVENS.

OH, YES, I HAVE!

THEY'RE LIKE A DIARY, RIGHT? ARE YOU WRITING ONE?

OH... THAT WAS... BECAUSE...

SO I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE INTERNET, AND THAT'S WHY I NEVER TOLD YOU.

BUT I INVITED YOU TO JOIN MIXI*, AND YOU NEVER DID ANYTHING WITH IT.

*A JAPANESE SOCIAL NETWORKING SERVICE

THAT'S RIGHT. BUT IT'S NO ORDINARY REVIEW SITE.

Yessir's DRAMANDALA!! Improving TV through positive reinforcement!

WOW, THIS IS IMPRESSIVE. SO YOU REVIEW CURRENT TV SHOWS?

...AND POST MY REVIEWS ON THE SAME DAY!

I WATCH EVERY SERIES ON EVERY CHANNEL IN EVERY TIME SLOT...

IT WAS MOSTLY BECAUSE ONE OF JESUS'S MYMIXI FRIENDS GOING BY "JUDAS-SAN" KEPT VIEWING MY PROFILE, AND IT WAS SCARING ME.

UH! ANYWAY, LET ME SEE YOUR BLOG!

OH, YEAH. HERE, LOOK!

THE WORLD MUST BE AT PEACE IF THE GODS HAVE THIS MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS...

SO *THAT'S* WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO...

I've made it to the top of the rankings!!

MY BLOG IS SO POPULAR, IT BOASTS 10,000 HITS A DAY!!

YESSIR'S DRAMANDALA!!

THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T GET ANY HITS AT FIRST.

THAT'S RIGHT.

and the hot.

Profile

Username: Yessir

Lives in Tokyo

ONLINE

I SEE YOU'VE KEPT YOUR NAME AND OCCUPATION HIDDEN.

BUT I MAKE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUES-TIONS.

OH, I CAN SEE THAT! THERE'S A COMMENT FROM YOU...

9: Wh
Whe
Such a
underes

YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY ACTIVE COMMENTS SECTION, TOO.

30: Appare

YEAH. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REPLY TO ALL OF THEM YET.

If you
uniqu
even

32: QQ. o
movi

You listened to me??

It was super great!

You...

We'll follow you anywhere!!

IT REMINDED ME OF WHEN I WAS STARTING MY MINISTRY!

BUT LITTLE BY LITTLE, I STARTED GETTING MORE COMMENTS ...

AWW, THAT SOUNDS NICE.

32: QQ. On this week's Electric Queen, the en
moving differently. Do you think they g
person to wear the suit?
(Papepo 6/26 02:35:27)

UH...

33: That enemy first showed up two seasons ago i Episode 28
Rider Ako. The enemies are showing more and more skin the
I mean, of course there's not any actual skin showing. lol
(Yessir 6/26 02:35:30)

34:

There Is a God Among Us

(Zanku 6/26 02:38:53)

u answered lol That was fast lol Too fast lolol
ight? (Horse Person 6/26 02:39:38)

∩(´∀`) (Gotta Go With Joe 6/26 02:40:28)

Got an answer! W00T!!!! (I'm Fake

I AM, I PROMISE.

?

YOU *ARE* HIDING YOUR OCCUPATION... AREN'T YOU?

...FOR SOME REASON, I'M SUDDENLY REALLY HUNGRY.

Train Man? I think I've seen that one...

HMMM, WELL, NOW THAT I'VE UPDATED MY BLOG...

CONDIMENTS, NORI, SESAME, AND UNDER-PANTS. THAT'S IT.

SHUT

WE HAVE ...

HMMM ...

KA-POP

WHAT? WE STILL HAVE SOME OF THAT? YOU MUST REALLY LIKE IT.

WE HAVE SOME INSTANT MILK-RICE PORRIDGE IN THE PANTRY.

SO COOOOL

YOU'RE STILL PUTTING YOUR UNDERWEAR IN THE FRIDGE?

ONCE YOU'VE TRIED IT, YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK TO LUKEWARM BOXERS...

I KNOW. YOU EVEN BRING COOLING PACKS TO THE PUBLIC BATH FOR THEM.

Oh, From Sujata-san...

NO, I GET THEM AS A CHŪGEN GIFT EVERY YEAR.

I MEAN, SHE WAS THE FIRST PERSON WHO EVER SERVED ME MILK-RICE PORRIDGE...

...AND I SUPPOSE HUNGER WAS THE ULTIMATE SEASONING.

Oh, you really like it!

This is amazing!! I can't believe how good it is!! Milk and rice is a match made in heaven!!

NOM NOM NOM NOM NOM

BUT AT THE TIME, I WAS LITERALLY STARVING AFTER ALL MY ASCETIC TRAINING...

AND SHE KEEPS SENDING IT AFTER MORE THAN 2,500 YEARS. THAT'S DILIGENCE!

The truth is... I can't stand that... unique odor!!

SO SHE SENDS IT TO ME EVERY YEAR, AND I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO TELL HER!!

LET'S ORDER IN?

WHIRL <3

JESUS, MY FRIEND.

OH! I KNOW, BUDDHA.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT IN THE RAIN.

UGH. OH, NO. NOW I'M REALLY GETTING HUNGRY...

GRRRUMBLE

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO TO THE STORE.

DON'T USE YOUR BUDDHA SMILE ON ME!

The double-click doesn't make it more convincing...

CLICK CLICK

YOU MAY BE HUNGRY NOW, BUT SLEEP, AND I PROMISE A NEW DAY WILL DAWN.

NO RAIN STORM LASTS FOREVER.

UGH, FINE. WAIT RIGHT THERE.

But he just got the cups from Hermes-san...

3

It's only four o'clock! I can't go to sleep!

GRRUMBLE

IT MIGHT NOT BE HARD FOR *YOU*, MR. FASTING EXPERT!

ACK!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

KA-CHAK

I'LL GET YOU SOME-THING.

I'D FEEL BAD! I'M NOT *THAT*...

SLAM!

HUH? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO THE STORE BY YOUR-SELF?!

HERE. YOUR DINNER.

고닥
CLUNK

BUDDHA. THESE ARE...

...HUH?

ROLL

Whew... -3

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE SOME KIND OF ABUSIVE WIFE!

YEAH, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO MEAN ABOUT IT.

WAAHH

MRK

YOU TURNED STONES INTO BREAD AND WATER INTO WINE, DIDN'T YOU?

DING DONG

I CAN ONLY MAKE RYE BREAD!

I just got to the part where Train Man is on a date with Hermes-san...

JUST TURN IT INTO A KIND OF BREAD YOU COULD MAKE A MEAL OUT OF, LIKE A YAKISOBA SANDWICH.

HM?

DING DONG

WHAT!

IT'S MATSU-DA.

YOUR LANDLADY.

D-DON'T WORRY. WE'RE NOT PROBLEM TENANTS!

I'll do it.

Mark-kun, your name sounds the most Japanese. Would you co-sign our lease?

IT WAS HARD ENOUGH JUST FINDING A PLACE WITH WHAT LITTLE IDENTIFICATION WE HAVE.

WE DID!

DIING DOOONG

WAIT JUST A— THE LAND-LADY? BUT WE DID PAY THE RENT, DIDN'T WE?!

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?! DID WE DO SOMETHING WRONG?!

BEFORE I OPEN THE DOOR, TRY TO HIDE THAT!

...AH!

WE CAN FACE HER WITHOUT FEAR!

Yeah.

SHE'LL EITHER THINK I'M FROM SOME FREAKY RELIGIOUS ORGANIZA-TION OR THAT I'M AN EXTREME NARCISSIST!!

THE BUDDHA STATUE WE WON IN THE LOTTERY!

SHIRTS: I AM BUDDHA, AFTER ALL. -BUDDHA, DREAM

I'M OPENING THE DOOR!

HELLO! SEI-SAN!

DING DONG

O-OKAY ...

IT'S KIND OF HARD TO DENY THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZA-TION THING...

RUSTLE RUSTLE

DON'T EITHER OF YOU HAVE A JOB?

ON A WEEK-DAY, NO LESS...

DING DONG

...YES, MA'AM?

UM... WELL, ACTUALLY, WE'RE BOTH ON SABBATICAL.

SHE'S ACCUSING US OF BEING NEETS!!

OH, MY, MY... DEAR, DEAR, DEAR. YOU'RE HOME.

ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY BEEN LAID OFF?

THEY MIGHT DOWN-SIZE.

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WILL YOU BE OKAY? WILL THEY LET YOU GO BACK TO WORK??

OH, MY. IN THIS ECONOMY?

すぃ
ZOOM
すぃ
すぃ!

I MEAN...

D—

B-DMP

HUH?

DON'T YOU WORRY!

What are you so nervous about?!

NO, NO, NO! NOT IN THE LEAST!!

OH, IS IT A POPULAR PROFES-SION??

See?!

'Cause it takes a lot of training!

IT'S PRETTY HARD TO QUALIFY FOR THIS KIND OF WORK.

IT'S A VERY SPECIAL-IZED FIELD ...

ANYWAY! OUR JOBS ARE SECURE, SO YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

of this new world.

I will become the god

CLAMP

IN FACT, I WOULD BE A LITTLE CONCERNED IF I HEARD A CHILD SAY THEY WANTED TO DO THIS WHEN THEY GROW UP.

白い象

OH, NO, NO, NO.

I WAS WONDERING, SEI-SAN.

SO, UH, IS THAT ALL YOU NEEDED?

O-OF COURSE NOT!

It's just a nap!!

I'm fine!

I'm not passing on to Nirvana!

YOU WEREN'T FEEDING THEM... WERE YOU?

YOU REMEMBER ALL THOSE BIRDS HANGING OUT AROUND YOUR WINDOW?

FLAP FLAP

I-I'M SURE IT'S FINE...

WH-WHAT DOES SHE WANT?!

I'M SCARED!

WE HAVE AN UMBRELLA!

トス THMP

トス THMP

STOP IT! WE'RE NOT GETTING WET!!

OH?

YES, IT WOULD, WOULDN'T IT?

THEN I'D LIKE YOU TO COME SEE SOMETHING.

FEEDING THE BIRDS WOULD DISTURB THE OTHER TENANTS!

WHIRL くるっ

SO, UM, LANDLADY-SAN, WHERE ARE WE GOING?

IT'S JUST YOU!

IS IT ME, OR ARE THE BIRDS FLOCKING AGAIN?

FLAP

FLAP

Mmmm!

Ha!

WHOA! LOOK AT ALL THOSE CATS!

MEOW

MEOW

MEOW

MEOW

HUH?

LOOK THERE, UNDER YOUR WINDOW.

OH, IT'S JUST OVER THERE.

SFF

WE'RE HAVING A HARD ENOUGH TIME FEEDING OURSELVES...

TEP

TEP

WHAAAT?!!

WHAT THE— WHY ARE YOU REACT-ING?!

MEOW!

MEOW!

MEOW!

SEE? IT'S EMPTY! WE DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD FOR YOU!

I-I COULDN'T POSSIBLY!

SO HERE. STAND THERE WITH THE PLATE!

I ASKED ONE OF THE FIRST FLOOR TENANTS TO HOLD UP A PLATE FOR THEM TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED, BUT THEY DIDN'T REACT.

SHOVE

SHOVE

I PROMISE WE AREN'T FEEDING THEM! HONEST!

MEOW...

TUMBLE...

UM... PLEASE DON'T...

ZSHHH

NO...

CLUNK

MATCHES

ZSHH

SFFR

LATER, THEY COMPLAINED TO MARY THAT THEY FELT SMOTHERED BY EVERY-ONE'S OVER-CONSIDER-ATION.

WE STILL HAVE SOME MILK-RICE PORRIDGE IN THE PANTRY!!

ZSHH

WE WOULDN'T! WE WOULD NEVER BARBECUE YOU!

What if I get a Mixi request from "Judas-san"?
mixi
LOGIN
GULP
ゴ"
ク"

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

WATER IS BELIEVED TO CLEANSE NOT ONLY THE BODY, BUT ALSO THE HEART.

PEOPLE GATHER WHERE THERE IS WATER.

BAPTISMS ARE PERFORMED WITH HOLY WATER.

IN CHRIS-TIANITY ...

BUDDHA ...

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT OUT?

SPLISH

ADHERENTS OF BUD-DHISM...

ZSHHH

YES...

I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.

ZSHHH

BUT GIVE ME A MINUTE. I THINK...

MEDITATE UNDER WATERFALLS TO ATTAIN ENLIGHTEN-MENT.

THAT'S *WHY* I'M TELLING YOU TO GET OUT FROM UNDER THE WATER-FALL!!

...I'M ABOUT TO FIND AN ANSWER THAT WILL TAKE ME ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE TRUTH OF THE UNIVERSE.

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 6

Summer Jam at the Community Center

There's not supposed to be a rainbow there!!

WAAH

WAAH

WAAH

AAAH, THIS FEELS SOOOOO GOOD.

THIS IS A LOT OF FUN, EVEN JUST FLOATING HERE AND LETTING YOUR MIND WANDER. RIGHT, BUDDHA?

BUOY

Ahh...

WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A DECENT FAN AT THE APARTMENT.

HUH? YOU MEAN THE MADAL STROKE?

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S A NORMAL WAY TO SWIM!

MADAL?! IS THAT WHAT IT'S CALLED?!

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT TO BE ONE OF YOUR NICKNAMES.

EVER HEARD OF THE RUMBLE FISH OF THE GANGES? THAT'S ME.

I USED TO DO RITUAL BATHING EVERY DAY.

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

WHOA! YOU'RE REALLY INTO IT! AND FAST, TOO!!

...I CAN'T SWIM.

ACTU-ALLY, I...

PSST

COME ON, JESUS! WE'RE AT THE POOL! IT'S TIME TO REALLY *SWIM!*

NOW PUT THE FLOATIE AWAY.

4

3

YEAH, MY BAPTISM... ABOUT THAT...

I figured they called you the Angel Fish of the River Jordan...

SIIIGH...

OH?

BUT I HEARD YOU WERE BAPTIZED IN A RIVER, SO I WAS SURE...

UH, YEAH, THAT'S A NO CAN DO...

POURRRR

S... SORRY ...

O-OKAY, THEN I'LL JUST POUR THE WATER OVER YOUR HEAD...

UM, CAN I CLOSE MY EYES?

YOU MEAN FACING UPSIDE-DOWN?!

O-OKAY, IF YOU COULD JUST PUT YOUR HEAD UNDER THE WATER...

BUT THEN MY EARS'LL START RINGING AND MY NOSE'LL START BURNING!!

WHAT? I HAVE TO SWIM?!

OKAY, JESUS, DIVE IN AND SWIM TO ME.

John-san

NO ONE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT! I CAN'T DO IT!!

BUDDHA: I BOUGHT *BILLY'S BOOTCAMP* WORKOUT DVDS.

I SEE... SO THE MODERN FORM OF BAPTISM COMES FROM JOHN'S KINDNESS...

Are you okay?!

In the end, Dad had to come down in the form of a dove and check on me...

I-I'm all right, Dad!!

I FELT REALLY BAD TO KEEP MAKING JOHN LOWER THE BAR LIKE THAT...

JESUS: NOW THAT I REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, THERE'S NO WAY *BILLY'S BOOTCAMP* IS AN EASY WAY TO LOSE WEIGHT.

I FEEL LIKE **SWIMMING** WOULD HAVE BEEN THE EASIER OPTION...

Never mind, I'll just walk!!

SO I PSYCHED MYSELF UP AND WALKED ABOUT 5 KM ACROSS THE LAKE...

I really didn't want to swim.

YEAH... THERE WAS ONE TIME A SHIP WAS HAVING TROUBLE IN A STORM, AND I WAS LIKE, "I HAVE TO GO SAVE THEM!"

AND YOU MADE IT THROUGH YOUR WHOLE MINISTRY WITHOUT EVER HAVING TO SWIM?

JESUS, YOU COULD USE YOUR HAIR...

HOW DO YOU FIGURE?

NO, NO, NO I DON'T!

OH YES, YOU DO.

HMMM, BUT YOU HAVE EXACTLY WHAT IT TAKES...

BUT IT'S SURE TO GET LAUGHS.

IT'S PRETTY CLICHÉ.

GOOD! THEN WE CAN PUT THAT HIPPIE-HAIR TO USE IN "MAN PERM & HIPPIE!"

I...I'LL DO IT.

...FOR A GAG.

YOU COULD DO SADAKO*.

*THE GIRL FROM THE JAPANESE VERSION OF THE RING.

SEE?

SPLISH

TH-THAT'S NOTHING. I LEARNED HOW TO DO THAT IN THE SECOND CENTURY...

OKAY! WE'LL START BY PUTTING YOUR FACE IN THE WATER!

BLUB

BLUB

BLUB

BLUB

NOW, STAY THERE AND TRY OPENING YOUR EYES.

WHAT?! IT'S ALREADY SO BAD THAT YOUR STIGMATA ARE OPENING?!

BLEEED

REALLY?! YOU'RE GOING TO TREAT IT LIKE YOU JUST PEED IN THE POOL?!

WAIT A...!

PHWAH!!

SPLISH

UH-OH! HURRY! MIX IT WITH THE WATER SO NO ONE NOTICES!

SPLISH

YOU... YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT... OKAY, JUST GO FOR IT...

DON'T THINK, JUST GO FOR IT!

I THINK IT WILL ACTUALLY BE *LESS* SCARY IF YOU JUST DIVE RIGHT IN!

O-OKAY!

GNG GNG GNG GNG GNG

DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING, JUST DO IT...

WHAT?! YOU JUST RAISED THE BAR LIKE SIX FEET!

JUST TRY GETTING YOUR HEAD UNDER THE WATER.

OKAY, THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO OPEN YOUR EYES.

Sigh...

IT'S OKAY!

AAAAAAAMEN!!

SPLAAASH

JESUS... OPEN YOUR EYES...

ゴゴゴ

IT'S A MIRACLE!

Wooow!

WHOA! THIS IS AWESOME! YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M ACTUALLY FINE!

ゴゴゴ

ZWOOOOM

YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING EVEN MORE IMPOSSIBLE, SO JUST OPEN YOUR EYES!!

Don't be crazy...

ズ

NO, FOR ME, THAT'S STILL IM-POSSIBLE.

ZWOOOM

ゴゴゴ

I-I'M SORRY I MADE IT SO UNCOMFORTABLE AT THE POOL.

NO, THAT'S OKAY.

MAN, THAT WAS SCARY! I'M GETTING CHILLS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT NOW!

AAAAHH, I REALLY DO LOVE A GOOD SAUNA...

I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO USING THE SAUNA, TOO.

OH! THAT'S JESUS FOR YOU.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT. I'M A LOCAL, TOO...

OH, BUT I'M NOT ORIGINALLY FROM HERE.

THEY GIVE YOU THIS SENSE OF UNITY THAT YOU CAN'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE.

IT'S LIKE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN EACH PERSON GROWS SHORTER.

I LOVE THE FEELING THAT I'M BEING WARMED BODY AND SOUL.

OH, BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY NOT TO LOOK OVER HERE.

UH-HUH.

DID YOU MAKE A FRIEND?

Heh heh...

Whew...

HE SEEMS LIKE A *REALLY* ZEALOUS BUDDHIST...

HEY, WHO'S THE GUY WITH THE PERM? PART OF YOUR FAMILY?

WHAT? NOBODY'S EVER ASKED ME THAT BEFORE... DO WE LOOK ALIKE?

HE'S A GANGSTER !!

OH, NO, I GOT THESE...

SO WHAT GANG GAVE YOU THOSE SCARS?

...WHEN THOSE GOVERN-MENT AGENTS CRUCIFIED ME.

#GA HA HA!!

WHAT?! YOU'RE BACK FROM THE CLINK, TOO, EH?!!

SLAP!

AND YOU SAY YOU'RE FROM AROUND HERE...

GLARE

BUT WHY?!

AND I THINK HE THINKS JESUS IS ONE, TOO!

WOW, THAT'S... JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO ME...

I GOT SEVEN YEARS IN ABASHIRI FOR CLEANING UP HIS MESS.

SEE, ONE OF MY CREW TURNED TRAITOR.

IS THAT SO? HAH HAH HAH!!

GOL-GOTHA**.

I WENT TO ABASHIRI*! WHERE'D YOU GO?!

JESUS, PLEASE NOTICE THAT THE TEMPERA-TURE IN THE SAUNA IS PLUM-METING.

*A PRISON IN NORTHERN JAPAN **THE HILL ON WHICH JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

YOU BROKE OUT IN JUST THREE DAYS?!

Seven years sounds rough.

OH, BUT I CAME BACK IN THREE DAYS.

NO, I JUST CAME BACK BECAUSE...

Ha ha ha...

DID SOME-BODY ELSE GET YOU OUT?

OH, I DIDN'T DO MUCH.

Hush

THIS COULD BE USEFUL INFORMA-TION FOR ME IN THE FUTURE...

THREE DAYS... HOW'D YOU SWING THAT?

...IT WAS MY FATHER'S WILL.

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.

...KID.

THUS, BUDDHA REFLECTED ON HOW HE HAD NEVER BEEN IN SUCH A COLD SAUNA.

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU SO FORMAL ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

Oh, please stop!

I'M SORRY FOR BEING OVERLY FRIENDLY. I HOPE MY PINKY WILL BE ENOUGH TO APPEASE YOU.

IF I'D'VE KNOWN YOU WERE THE SON OF SOME KINGPIN, I'DA SHOWN YOU THE PROPER RESPECT.

I'M SORRY, BUDDHA. NOW WE CAN'T EVEN GO IN THE SAUNA, THANKS TO ME.

OHH, SO HE WAS A GANG-STER...

ZSHHH

UGH!! I BROKE OUT IN A COLD SWEAT IN THE *SAUNA!!*

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW BUDDHA'S HEAD CAN BE SUDSING LIKE THAT...

GULP

So it *is* hair...

SERIOUSLY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT!

...UH.

KA-CHAK

IT'S SO PERFECTLY "SUMMER" ...

OH, I LIKE IT! THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

WELL, WHATEVER. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE AND GET SOME ICE CREAM.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU FORGET YOUR UNDER-PANTS?!

NO...

H-HOW COULD I LET THIS HAPPEN?!

SLAM

...IT'S A LITTLE SCARY HOW DEPRESSED YOU GET AT THIS KIND OF THING!

¥100 59

¥100 60

¥100 80

THESE AREN'T THE KINDS OF LOCKERS THAT GIVE YOUR COIN BACK!!

OH, JESUS... THAT'S THE THING ABOUT OFFERTORY BOXES...

SIGH...

Think positive!

JUST THINK OF IT AS A MONEY OFFERING.

NOW, NOW.

AWWW... OH, I KNOW!

SIGH...

WELL, THAT'S OKAY. I'LL JUST HAVE TO PASS ON THE ICE CREAM TODAY...

WHAT? BUT—

SINCE I CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE, *I'LL* BUY YOUR ICE CREAM TODAY!

REALLY, I DON'T MIND!

WE...WE PROMISED NOT TO TALK ABOUT THAT, BUDDHA!

IF THE MONEY ACTUALLY DID GO TO ME, THIS WOULDN'T MAKE ME SO SAD.

MUTTER

JESUS, YOU ARE SO...

IF I CAN GET YOUR SMILE BACK FOR JUST 100 YEN, IT'S PRACTICALLY A STEAL.

THAT'S MORE EXPENSIVE THAN HÄAGEN DAZS. AND DON'T YOU OWN THE WHOLE SERIES?

It's a paperback for 360 yen...

IN THAT CASE, I'D RATHER HAVE THE NEWLY RELEASED CORNER STORE EDITION OF *BUDDHA*.

AAHH, WE MADE IT...

VRRR

YOU ARE A DEVOUT FOLLOWER OF TEZUKA-ISM, BUDDHA.

I WANT IT ANYWAY. IT'S THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE RELEASED A NEW EDITION SINCE IT ENDED...

Let's run to the corner store.

Wow, it's hot!

Tachikawa Community Center
Gym →
Pool ↑
Library ↑

TEP TEP TEP

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

IT WAS NICE AT THE POOL, BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THE COOL AIR IN A CORNER STORE JUST CAN'T BE BEAT.

PAT

Flipping through it like this, it's like the story is happening in real time. I love it.

But are we really going to buy this?

550

EXCUSE ME... SIR.

MANGA: BUDDHA
SNACKS: KINOKO NO [...], PORONRI, DON NACOS, CARAMEL BEAN
JESUS' SHIRT: SAMSON AND DELILAH

LET'S EAT OUR ICE CREAM.

BUDDHA.

SHIRT: I AM BUDDHA, AFTER ALL. -BUDDHA

...CAUSED BUDDHA TO LOCK HIMSELF IN THE BATHROOM FOR THREE HOURS.

Buddha!

THE EXTREME SHOCK OF A THREAT TO CALL THE COPS...

THAT LOOK IS JUST SO YOU, I DIDN'T REALIZE, EITHER.

BAM BAM BAM

I THINK THIS WAS INEVITABLE.

It's how you always dress in the Heavens.

I believe you.

I had no idea I had so much skin showing... Surely you believe me...

NOD

NOD

GRIN

He used the Buddha smile!!

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

OH, COMING!

DING DONG

SEI-SAN! DELIVERY FOR YOU!

TRUCK: TARLMO WHITE CAT PARCEL SERVICE

UH, WAIT! ...THOSE ARE MINE!!

WASHROOM

KA-CRASH

WHAT? CASH ON DELIVERY?

THESE PACKAGES ARE C.O.D...

BAM!!

THAT WILL BE 17,000 YEN*.

*ABOUT $170

WOULD A SIGNATURE DO?

THEN IF YOU'LL JUST STAMP HERE...

OH, JESUS. WOULD YOU MIND?

OH...

GOOD, I HAVE THAT EXACT AMOUNT.

TH-THAT'S OKAY. I'LL JUST PAY FOR THEM.

CLATTER

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

WAIT A MINUTE! I'LL PAY FOR THOSE!!

Ah! Oh, no! The wall!!

FLUSH

HOW MUCH IS IT?

THE WINDOW DRESSINGS AT THE SEI-SAN RESIDENCE ...

...ARE MADE OF THICK BLACKOUT CURTAINS FOR JUST THIS SORT OF OCCASION.

YES, SIR...

I NEED YOU TO CLOSE THE CURTAINS TO KEEP THE LIGHT FROM GETTING OUT.

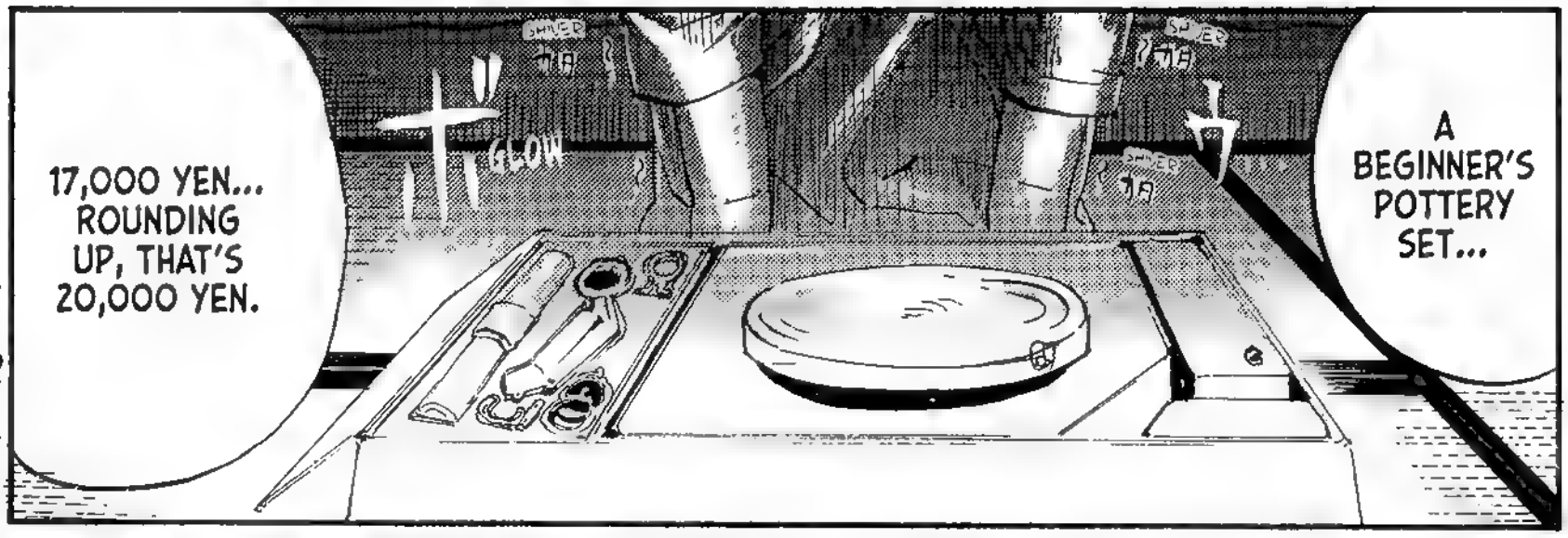
light?

SAINT YOUNG MEN

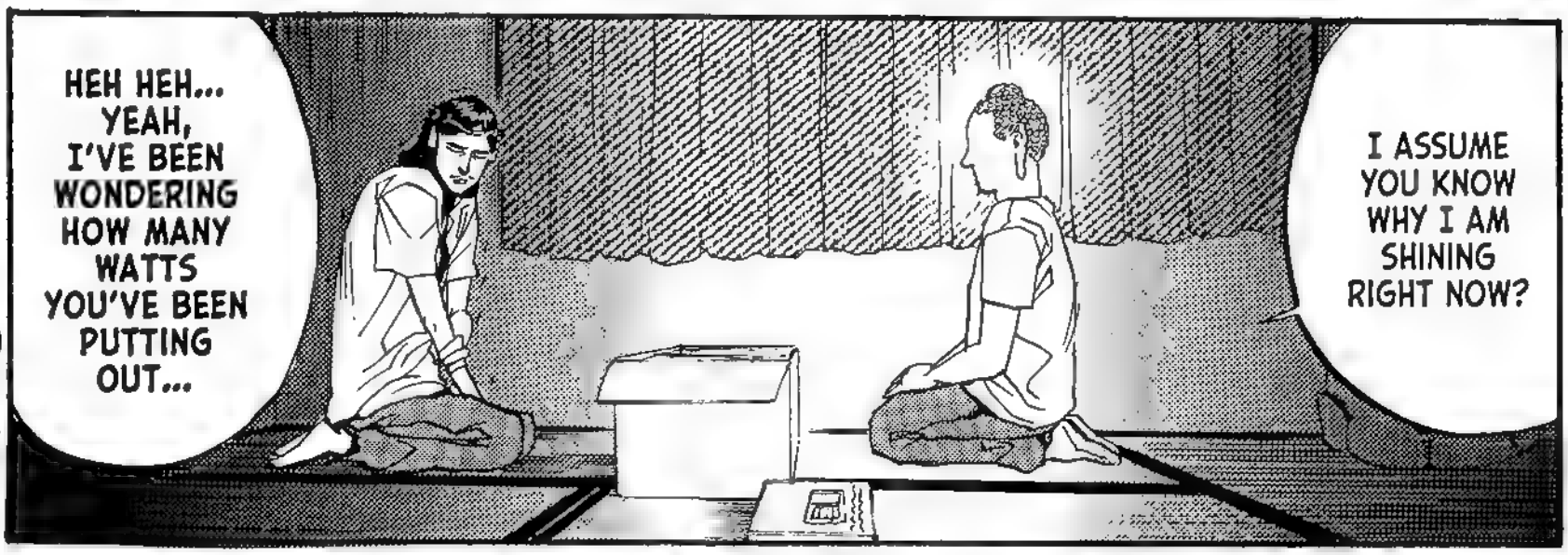
Chapter 7

"Buddha and Jesus's "Can I Do It?"

BUDDHA: I PREFER MY NATTO WITH SMALL BEANS. I ADD GREEN ONIONS AND STIR ABOUT 50 TIMES. I LIKE TO EAT IT WITH A WHOLE LOT OF GROUND SESAME, SHICHIMI SEASONING, AND DASHI SOUP STOCK.



JESUS: I PREFER CRUSHED NATTO. I STIR IT A LITTLE, THEN ADD MAYON-NAISE AND STIR IT SOME MORE. THEN I ADD A LITTLE SOY SAUCE AND MUSTARD. IT'S THE BEST.



YES... I'M SORRY...
I WISH I COULD SELL THE ENERGY TO THE ELECTRIC COMPANY TO MAKE UP FOR YOUR WASTEFUL SPENDING!
Ha ha ha ha, the end of the month!!!
Ha ha... It is the end of the month.
NNGH... I WAS PLANNING TO GET THE DOOR MYSELF SO BUDDHA WOULDN'T FIND OUT.

SHIRT: DHAMMAPADA

I NEVER ASKED FOR—

BEGINNER'S MANGA SET

PRACTICE

LEARN FROM THE PROS!

To support your desire to draw MANGA!!

...BE INTER-ESTED ...

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT...

FZHHH

I-I MEAN, YOU KNOW. LOOK OUTSIDE!

SO...SO THIS IS A G-PEN NIB...

FSHH

B-DMP

B-DMP

RIGHT, BECAUSE IT'S AUTUMN.

ALL THE LEAVES HAVE TURNED RED.

SEE, OUT IN THE YARD?

YOU'RE REALLY CUTTING IT CLOSE, YOU KNOW!!

SO YOU STILL HAVE ONE BUDDHA FACE LEFT...

WELL, THAT'S TWO WASTEFUL PUR-CHASES.

x 1

WHEWW

SPUTTER

SPUTTER

WHAT A RELIEF... I'M SO GLAD I BOUGHT THEM BOTH TOGETHER!!

OKAY, SO HE IS STILL MAD.

FALL IS ALSO THE SEASON OF EXERCISE, SO CAN I EXPECT YOU TO TAKE THE TRASH OUT TOMORROW, AND EVERY DAY FOR A WEEK?

C-COOL, SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD WORK-OUT...

GULP ゴクッ

GRIN!! ニコッ

ボムッ BOOM

YES! I WANTED TO ENRICH MY MIND!

I GET IT. FALL IS THE SEASON OF THE ARTS— THAT'S WHY YOU BOUGHT THIS STUFF.

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

MANGA, EH?

...STILL...

HA HA HA. WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

THEY REALLY ARE GONE! GONE WITH THE WIND!

I MEAN LITERALLY.

I MEAN, I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO SHOW YOU.

N-NO, YOU CAN'T!

THAT'S SO COOL! I WANNA SEE!

THERE YOU GO AGAIN. COME ON, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THEM.

YOU KNOW, I DID DABBLE IN DRAWING COMICS, BACK UP IN THE HEAVENS.

MUTTER ブツブツ

Oohhh!!

WHAT? REALLY?!

AS SOON AS I DREW IT, IT WAS ALL BLOWN AWAY.

IT WAS SAND ART.

...AND IT ALL FADED AWAY, STARTING WITH THE BIGGEST PUNCHLINE.

The first spring wind blew...

I WAS STILL TRYING TO DECIDE IF I WANTED TO SHOW IT TO ANYONE...

IT WAS THE WORLD'S SADDEST GAG MANGA.

COULD YOU STOP MAKING EVERYTHING IN YOUR LIFE AN ACT OF ASCETI-CISM?!

I TRULY FELT THE IMPERMA-NENCE OF ALL THINGS...

YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE MAKE RELIGIOUS ART?

Hmmm, maybe something like this...

OH, BUT HEY, SPEAKING OF ART.

HUH? LIKE WHAT?

WELL, FOR EXAMPLE.

PERSONALLY, I HAVE SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT THEIR PORTRAYALS...

OHHH, SO YOU WERE INSECURE ABOUT THAT...

I mean, it's not like I'm slender now, but still!

BUT I HAVE TO SEE IT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN—IT'S DEPRESS-ING!

THAT'S A PART OF MY HISTORY I'D RATHER FORGET.

CLAP

CLAP

WHY DO SO MANY ARTISTS...

...CHOOSE TO DEPICT ME AT MY FATTEST?!

SHIRT: THREE WISE MEN

OH! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL!

AND THE EXPRESSION THEY USE—IT'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE BOTCHED PHOTOS WHERE I HAVE MY EYES CLOSED.

Looking at pictures of yourself is unbearable.

I MEAN, COME ON...

OH YEAH, YOU'RE EVEN BLEEDING IN SOME OF THOSE PICTURES.

Owww...

I WISH THEY'D DRAW ME WITH MORE LIFE, YOU KNOW?

GOOD QUES-TION.

SO WHAT KIND OF SCENES DO YOU *WANT* THEM TO CHOOSE?

SIGH

RIGHT! THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE ALL THE WORST SCENES.

WHAT? BUT I *WANT* TO BE SEEN LIKE THAT!

NO, YOU CAN'T BE PORTRAYED THAT WAY.

BESIDES, THAT MAKES YOU SOUND LIKE SOME SHŌNEN MANGA HERO.

YOU THINK SO?

You denied me thrice!!

IT'D MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE IF SOMEONE SMOTE YOU ON THE LEFT CHEEK, YOU'D SMITE *THEM* ON *THEIR* RIGHT...

MAYBE ME WITH A RICE BOWL IN MY HANDS ASKING FOR SECONDS!

seconds~?

PLEASE!

YOU'D START TOO MANY CONTROVER-SIES OVER WHAT THE RICE BOWL MEANS!

LIKE, MAYBE PORTRAITS WITH NO BACK-GROUND...

OOHH, I LIKE IT! IT'S LIKE A BROMIDE MINI-POSTER!

WHY DON'T WE FORGET ABOUT USING SPECIFIC SCENES?

SO WHAT KIND OF PICTURES DO *YOU* THINK WOULD WORK?

BUT YEAH, YOU CAN'T JUST SMILE FOR THE CAMERA AND CALL IT GOOD.

Come on...

HUH? WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY I HAVE A "GOOD SIDE"...

ALTHOUGH, WE HAVE TO BE SURE TO GET OUR GOOD SIDES.

GOOD IDEA! SO IF WE PUT ALL THOSE IDEAS TOGETHER...

THEN ADD SOME TEXT, AND I GUARANTEE PEOPLE WILL GET THE MESSAGE!

HEY! A HAND GESTURE IS PERFECT!

IT HAS TO BE—YOU KNOW—A FACE THAT SHOWS HOW RESPON-SIBLE AND COMPETENT YOU ARE.

WHO-SOEVER SHALL SMITE THEE ON THY RIGHT CHEEK,

TURN TO HIM THE OTHER ALSO.

Jesus Christ

I MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THAT.

NO GOOD, HUH?

SIGH...

FSH

FSH

I WAS BORN SAYING "HOLY AM I, ALONE THROUGH-OUT HEAVEN AND EARTH."

BUDDHA

Mine would look like this...

THIS...IS A CAMPAIGN POSTER.

WOW! IT REALLY WORKS!

ʒ ʒʒ RRR

OOHH, IT'S SPINNING, IT'S SPINNING!

ʃ"ʒ ʒ ʒ WHRRR

AND YOU CAN FIRE IT IN THE TOASTER OVEN.

I KNOW, RIGHT?!

Now I want to try.

IN THAT CASE, 17,000 YEN SEEMS LIKE A STEAL...

OOHH, THIS IS STARTING TO LOOK PRETTY GOOD!

The toaster takes two whole minutes just to preheat...

STARE

...YOU KNOW, IF WE CAN AFFORD A POTTERY WHEEL, I'D PREFER A MICROWAVE.

WHAT? IN *OUR* TOASTER OVEN, THAT ONLY TOASTS BREAD...

...AND DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A MICRO-WAVE?!

Bread Pizza

OH, GOOD IDEA. SHAPING IT INTO A CROSS WOULD BE VERY CHIC...

I'LL GIVE IT CHARACTER BY GIVING IT THE SHAPE OF MY PERSONAL SYMBOL...

THAT'S RIGHT. THE VERY SAME TOASTER OVEN THAT WAS ABANDONED BY THE PREVIOUS TENANT!

THAT'S YOUR SYM-BOL?!

I'm making a bento box!

Tadah!

NO, I MEAN, GIVING IT THE SAME SHAPE AS MY LAPTOP.

HEY, YOU DON'T NEED A POTTERY WHEEL TO MAKE THAT.

DOESN'T THAT DEFEAT THE PURPOSE?!

DING ALING ALING

ALL RIGHT! TIME TO POST A PICTURE OF THE CREATION PROCESS ON MY BLOG...

OH! BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SHOWN ANY-ONE MY ART, SO DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH!

PASH

OKAY, HERE...

AND I DOUBT IT WILL BE THE LEAST BIT FUNNY...

AND IT'S MY FIRST TIME USING A G-PEN OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

GNN

YEAH, I UNDER-STAND...

YEAH, OKAY...

OH, WELL... I FINISHED A PAGE. D-DO... YOU WANT TO SEE IT?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, BUDDHA?

HOW'S THE MANGA GOING?

SCOOT SCOOT

YES! SHOW ME, SHOW ME!

DO YOU WANT TO SHOW IT TO ME OR NOT?!

Let go of it!!

JUST ONE QUICK LOOK, SAY NOTHING, SHOW NOTHING ON YOUR FACE, AND GIVE IT RIGHT BACK!!!

ENLIGHTEN YOURSELF!! ANANDA!!

UH... YEAH. I BASED IT ON MY DISCIPLE, ANANDA.

Ribs?

What is it?

Oh?

Hey, Ananda!

OH, IT'S A GAG MANGA...

IT CAN'T BE THAT FUNNY! IT'S JUST A LITTLE GAG MANGA!!

Heeeee hee hee hee hee!!!

SPLAT

STOP TRYING TO SPARE MY FEELINGS...

HEH HEH HEH.

HEH ...

I KNOW YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER!

HUH?

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT? SERI-OUSLY.

...HEH HEH.

UH-HUH...

BLUSH

HEY! I DON'T NEED ANY PITY LAUGHS, OKAY?!

THE ROSES ON YOUR CROWN ARE IN FULL BLOOM?!

WHAT THE...?!

WHEW

WOW... I'M REALLY SUPER FLATTERED!

YOU... YOU'D BETTER MEAN THAT!

PLUCK

PLUCK

IT WAS SO FUNNY, I ACCIDENTALLY MADE A MIRACLE.

WOW, THAT REALLY WAS HILARIOUS!

AAHH! YOU'RE RIGHT! NO ONE WOULD GET IT DOWN HERE!!

Nobody down here would understand the "ribs dance" thing.

I MEAN, IT'S ALL BASED ON STUFF THAT HAPPENS *IN THE HEAVENS.*

I DIDN'T EVEN ASK FOR ADVICE, BUT THAT WAS SPOT ON. THANK YOU.

UH, R-RIGHT...

YOU HAVE TO THINK MORE ABOUT YOUR READERS.

AND THEY'RE ALL INSIDE JOKES, TOO.

OH, NO. NOW I'M FEELING CONFIDENT...

MAYBE I SHOULD SUBMIT THIS TO A PUBLISHER...

WHEN?

TAP TAP

TREMBLE

WHAT? OH, NO, THEY'LL NEVER ACCEPT IT.

TREMBLE

AWWW, I TURNED MY MINERAL WATER INTO WINE...

OH, I WAS JUST REMEMBER-ING YOUR ANANDA COMIC.

SPLISH

ROKKO WATER

OHH, ANOTHER MIRACLE... YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH!

HEH HEH HEH.

YEAH, GOOD IDEA.

HMM, THEN MAYBE I SHOULD SEND THIS TO ANANDA AND THE GUYS...

Whew, I'm thirsty...

Since I drew it, and all...

WHAT'S WRONG?

ENLIGHTEN YOURSELF, ANANDA!

Yes, exactly.

Ribs?

OKAY, WELL, I CAN'T LET YOU OUTDO ME.

OH! GOOD THINKING.

I'LL START BY TRYING TO GET LAUGHS FROM THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO ME!

NOW I'M *REALLY* MOTI-VATED!

URK!

SHOCK

PFFT.

THE TOASTER SHOULD BE PREHEATED BY NOW, SO...

CLICK

CLICK

CLICK

BUT SERIOUSLY, THAT THING ANANDA SAID...

WH-WHAT? AGAIN??

NOOOO, A MIRACLE!!!

THIS... THIS MEANS...!

...IS STONE?!

...THE MAIN INGREDIENT IN CLAY...

ふわ PUFF

ふわ PUFF

YEAH. THE TOASTER *IS* PREHEATED, AFTER ALL.

NOD コクリ

SLICE ﾄｰｽﾄ

...LET'S TOAST IT.

ANY-WAY...

DING チン!!

W... WOW...

AND THAT NIGHT...

...WAS ALSO FLAMED.

OH, NO...

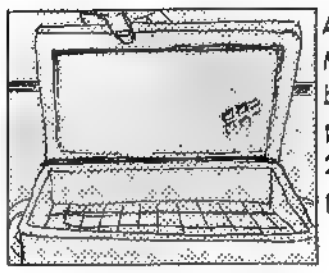
Comments (186)

It's too surreal. Thi isn't the kind of thir I want from this blog.

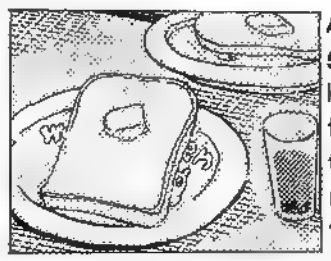
WTF

was looking forward to e finished product. I'm s disappointed. What did you c to it?

Now, now, calm down, every one. ^~^ But, come on, Yessir-san, Please be careful to make sure this doesn't happen in the future. (R-amen)



Art Diary 1
My laptop-shaped bento box. Came out pretty well, right? I'll post another pic when it's done!



Art Diary 2
Some stuff happened, and it turned out like this. It tasted really good~ ^_^ The wine came out really well, too.

...YES-SIR'S BLOG ...

Manga for Saints

"Enlighten Yourself!! Ananda!!" ©Siddhartha

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

THE MIKOSHI JUST PASSED BY!

COME ON, JESUS.

HEAVE-HO!

SWEET DIDDLE-DIDDLE

HEAVE-HO!

OH, HONESTLY. WHAT IN THE WORLD IS TAKING YOU SO LONG?

SIGH...

STOMP

STOMP

SORRY, JUST 20 MORE... NO, 15 SECONDS!

HUH? DRESS RIGHT? BUT...

SINCE WE'RE GOING TO A SHINTO FESTIVAL, I WANT TO DRESS RIGHT.

STOMP

STOMP

OKAY, SORRY! I'M READY NOW!

SINCE WHEN DID YOU HAVE ANY FESTIVAL GEAR?

STOMP

STOMP

THAT ISN'T VERY HELPFUL.

IF YOU HAD CURLY HAIR LIKE ME, YOU COULD GO FROM IN BED TO OUT THE DOOR IN ONE MINUTE.

BESIDES, I'M NOT WORKING ON MY HAIR!

JESUS, THAT'S NOT FOR A CULTURAL FAIR. IT'S FOR A COSTUMED AFFAIR.

Sorry, sorry.

PRITHEE, FORGIVE MY TARDINESS.

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 8

Sacred Fall Festival

BUDDHA: OVERHEARD WHILE ASLEEP: I CAN'T FLY ANYMORE.

HONESTLY, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO FOCUSED ON APPEAR-ANCE...

TWEET DIDDLE

Famous-Edo-Eobako

GRILLED CABBAGE

Squid

AWW, BUT NOW I'M JUST IN A T-SHIRT AGAIN...

JESUS: OVERHEARD WHILE ASLEEP: I CAN'T SLEEP.

HEY, WOW, LOOK AT ALL THESE BOOTHS!

GLANCE

GLANCE

FRIED CHICKEN

I GUESS ...

CANDIED APPLES

YOU CAN ENJOY A FESTIVAL JUST AS MUCH IN A T-SHIRT.

SHIRT: BRAHMIN

NICE! ONE, PLEASE!

AND IT'S SWEET, TOO!

Shaved Ice

OOOH, THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE SNOW.

FESTIVAL FOOD IS SO INTER-ESTING...

JESUS, SHOULDN'T YOU FINISH EATING THAT BEFORE YOU ORDER SOME-THING ELSE?

YUP, AND IT'S SWEET, TOO!

IT'S LIKE A CLOUD! EXCUSE ME, IS THIS FOOD?!

OOOH, LOOK AT THIS! IT'S AMAZ-ING...

ONE, PLEASE!

COTTON CANDY

ISN'T THIS GREAT? I REMEMBER UP IN HEAVEN, YOU WOULD ALWAYS LOOK DOWN AT YOUR FEET...

WOW, IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE...

Ice

SPLAT

...AND TALK ABOUT HOW THE GROUND WAS SO FLUFFY AND LOOKED GOOD ENOUGH TO...

PEEEL

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

...SINCE I'VE FELT SO BETRAYED.

GNN

GNN

...HUH? WHAT HAPPENED? IS IT STICKY?

YEAH. THIS THING IS NOT FLUFFY LIKE A CLOUD.

WHAT ?!

YOUR MOUTH IS BRIGHT PINK!!

SHOCK

I MEAN, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE WEARING LIPSTICK!

HERE, MY SHAVED ICE IS EXACTLY WHAT I IMAGINED. HAVE SOME!

GAPE

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO *YOU*, BUDDHA?!

CH-CHEER UP! YOU MANAGED TO COME BACK AFTER THAT, TOO!

THIS IS JUDAS LEVEL...

I HONESTLY HAVEN'T BEEN THIS DISAPPOINTED SINCE JUDAS...

Now my hair is like a wet puppy's...

UM... WITH YOUR LIPS LIKE THAT, I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY TO ACT *MORE* MASCULINE.

YOU LOOK JUST LIKE A BAR HOSTESS!!

BLUSH

WHAT? OH, DEAR! OH, GOODNESS! HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? IS IT THE STRAW-BERRIES?

THERE, THERE. WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT DOWN HERE ON EARTH.

I said be more manly.

I JUST HOPE NOBODY WE KNOW SEES ME LIKE THIS...

AAHH, I FEEL LIKE THIS HAS GOTTEN OFF TO A *TERRIBLE* START...

PEOPLE WITH HAIR JUST LIKE MINE...

See? They're everywhere.

K-

There's no one we know here!

YEAH, I GUESS NOT...

AND THIS FESTIVAL IS AT A SHINTO SHRINE. IT'S NOT AFFILIATED WITH EITHER OF US.

HUH?

YOU'LL BLEND RIGHT IN.

BESIDES, EVERYBODY HERE IS DOING THEIR HAIR A LOT LIKE YOURS.

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!!!

KINGPIN JR.!!

ARE YOU SEI, THE THREE-DAY JAIL-BREAKER?!

ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

HEY, ANIKI! IS THIS THE GUY YOU MET AT THE PUBLIC POOL?

THE FIRST FRIEND THEY MADE DOWN ON EARTH.

THERE IS SOMEBODY WE KNOW!!!

FRIENDLY ACQUAINTANCE: BEFRIENDED JESUS AT THE COMMUNITY POOL. IS UNDER THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT JESUS IS THE HEIR TO A YAKUZA GANG. OVERHEARD WHILE ASLEEP: SAUSAGE... HEH.

IS SOMEBODY AFTER YA?!

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU HIDING YOUR FACES?

YEAH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

WIPE

WIPE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

AAAHH, JESUS, THIS MAN THINKS YOU'RE THE SON OF A MOB BOSS!!

HEY, YASU!

YOU GOT IT, KINGPIN JR.

HEY, COULD YOU LEND US SOMETHING TO WIPE OUR FACES?

OH, NO, I'M JUST COVERING MY FACE BECAUSE IT'S A STRANGE COLOR...

FORGET ABOUT IT. IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN PLAY A ROUND AT OUR BOOTH. IT'S ON ME!

B-DMP

B-DMP

WIPE

WIPE

WHEW, THANKS FOR THE HELP.

WELL, IF WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT CATCHES YOUR INTEREST...

NO?

OH, NO, WE COULDN'T...

HM?

OH... ARE THEY BACK FROM THE BANK?

GET ME THE STUFF WE USE TO WIPE OFF THE PAINT FROM THOSE COLOR BALLS.

SMIRK

OH, THAT'S OKAY! IT WILL COME OFF WITH WATER!!

...BUNDLED WITH *PUPPY AND ME?!*

Puppy and Me

THAT'S A NINTENDO DS...

NO, THAT'S NOT WHY. I WANT IT *BECAUSE* IT'S A VIRTUAL PET...

SINCE OUR APARTMENT DOESN'T ALLOW PETS, THE BEST YOU CAN GET IS A VIRTUAL ONE.

GNN

OH, YEAH... YOU *DID* WANT THAT GAME.

Here ya go.

OH! YOU FOUND SOMETHING YOU WANT?

HAH HAH HAH! BY THE WAY, YOU CAN HOLD THE GUN OUT AS FAR AS YOU WANT!

ALL RIGHT! I'M PLAYING TO WIN!

You can do it, Buddha!!

WHAT? YOU MEAN...

BELOVED BY ALL CREATURES SINCE THE DAY HE WAS BORN.

PAMPER

PAMPER

JUST ONCE, I WANT ANIMALS TO BE MEAN TO ME!

UH... YEAH, THAT'S KIND OF TWISTED...

Not that I don't know the feeling...

WOW, YOU'RE EVEN GOING TO USE THE MOVES YOU LEARNED IN YOUR ASCETICISM...

BUT ISN'T THIS YOUR FIRST TIME AT A SHOOTING GALLERY?

WHAT? WELL, I GUESS THAT'S OKAY...

EVEN IF I DISLOCATE MY SHOULDER?

?!

KA-KRAK POP

YEAH, BUT I KNOW THE TRICK TO IT!

OKAY, COOL.

I'M SO IMPRESSED. BUT WHERE DID YOU LEARN THE TRICK??

I DIDN'T EXACTLY SEEK IT OUT. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS.

HOLD YOUR BREATH...

STRRRETCH

AIM A LITTLE HIGH...

UH, I DON'T THINK THAT'S "THE TRICK" TO SHOOTING!!

I... I DID IT!!

OHHH!!

BUD-DHA... THAT WAS AMAZ-ING!!

SHOONK

NAMU-SAN!!

KAPOW!

WH-WHAAAT?!

OOOHHH! YOU DID MENTION THEY'VE BEEN SHOOTING AT YOU.

You brats used up your Buddha Faces ages ago!

Stop that!!

THEY AIM FOR THIS SPOT EVERY TIME I LEAVE THE APARTMENT.

They're always shouting advice to their friends.

D5 Light

HE REALLY IS IN KING-PIN JR.'S CREW!

SHIVER

I...I SHOULD'VE KNOWN...

No, actually the water guns are the worst.

I bet you wish they'd stop it with the rubber band bazookas.

THUS, HIS FOLLOWING IN TACHIKAWA CONTINUES TO GROW.

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD TO WALK THROUGH A BLOOD BATH EVERY DAY!

OOHHH! LOOK! THOSE KIMONOS ARE SO COOL!

OH, HEY! THE MIKOSHI IS COMING!

WAAH WAAH

HEAVE-HO!

HEAVE-HO!

祭

WELL, MY FRIEND.

IF YOU WANNA CARRY THE MIKOSHI, I KNOW SOME GUYS.

THEY ***ARE*** COOL. BUT I DON'T THINK YOU CAN WEAR THEM UNLESS YOU'RE CARRYING THE MIKOSHI...

OH, YEAH. WHAT ARE THEY— HAPPI?

YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T CARRY A MIKOSHI!

HUH? JUST A...

YAY, I GET A HAPPI, TOO! I'M SO HAPPY!

JOY

JOY

WH-WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?!

HEY, KID! TRADE WITH THESE FINE MEN HERE!

WH-WHAT?!

JESUS. WE ARE AT A SHINTO SHRINE.

IF THE GOD HERE FINDS OUT THAT ***WE*** WERE CARRYING THIS MIKOSHI...

But I want to...

AWW, REALLY?

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE... AND HE'LL TELL EVERYONE HE EVER TALKS TO.

WE'D BE SUBJECTED TO THE BIGGEST SMIRK OF THE CENTURY!

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW INCREDIBLY AWKWARD THAT WOULD BE?

IN FACT, THAT FACE YOU'RE MAKING IS WHAT'S GOING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION!

DON'T WORRY, NO ONE WILL KNOW.

FWOOSH

ACK!

COME ON, SIRS, YOU'D BETTER GET GOING!

ANANDA?!

A—

HEAVE-HO, HEAVE-HO!

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE KNOW ANYBODY ELSE WHO WOULD BE...

...HM?

B-B-B-BUT I CAN'T!

HEAVE-HO! HEAVE-HO!

ACT LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN! COME ON!

NOW I *REALLY* DON'T WANT ANYONE I KNOW TO SEE ME!

I'M SORRY! YOU LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW!!

WHOA, NOT EVEN CLOSE!!

What?

THIS IS BAD. I'M GETTING PARANOID.

WHAT ?!

Uhh, I guess this guy's hitting on me.

What's going on?

What?! Who is *he?* I, like, totally love his look??

So, like, where's this "Ananda" from, anyway?

That's, like, totally hilarious.

Am I in Heaven?!

People do tell me I look like a foreigner.

EVERYONE'S WEARING GLOWING HALOS—THEY'RE STARTING TO LOOK LIKE PEOPLE I KNOW!!

JESUS, HELP ME! I THINK THEY HAVE THE WRONG IDEA...

N-NO, IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, REALLY ...

BLUSH

So funny!

Like, is it me, or are his ears really long?

A piercing? Is that a piercing? It's so cool!

NOW, NOW. DON'T WORRY. THEY'RE HERE WITH THEIR BOYFRIENDS.

YOU'RE TAKING THESE SHENANIGANS TOO FAR!!

BESIDES....

WAAAAH! HE'S LOOKING AS JOHNNY DEPPISH AS POSSIBLE AND SPEAKING ENGLISH!!

SHING

<What's the matter?>

OH! COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE RIGHT!

Buh-bye!

See you later!

SO IT'S ALL GOOD!

IF THEY THINK YOU'RE PICKING UP CHICKS, THEN THEY DEFINITELY DON'T THINK YOU'RE A BUDDHA.

EXACTLY. NOW, COME ON, BUDDHA! LET'S SHOUT!

HEAVE-HO!

HEAVE-HO!

THE LESS LIKELY I AM TO BE REC-OGNIZED!

I GET IT NOW. THE MORE I PARTY...

YOU'RE GIVING YOURSELF AWAY!!

JUST A— JESUS, YOU'RE *TOO* INTO THIS!

AMEN! AMEN!!

H-HEAVE-HO, HEAVE-HO!!

HEAVE-HO, HEAVE-HO! I'M REALLY STARTING TO GET INTO THIS!!

POW

BOOM

PATTER

PATTER

WAAH

JESUS! JUST A, YOU—!

AGAPE! AGAPE!!

WAAH

HA, HA, HA! YOU'RE PRETTY FUNNY, DUDE!

AND THE FIREWORKS ARE BEAUTIFUL, AND THIS BEER IS THE BEST.

DA DA DAN

DP DP

DP DP POW

AHHH, THAT WAS FUN.

YEAH... YOU WERE THE VERY MODEL OF AN OVER-EXCITED LOCAL YOUTH.

It was a little creepy.

WE'RE FULL-FLEDGED LOCALS!

AFTER TODAY, I THINK...

HERE GOES.

ONE, TWO...

BAH

THREE!!

バラモン

MMM, MY HEART'S POUNDING.

OMIKUJI

WE'LL SHOW EACH OTHER ON THREE!

OH! GOOD IDEA! I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN GET A GREAT BLESSING TODAY!

ALLLL RIGHT! YOU WANNA FINISH THE NIGHT BY GETTING OMIKUJI FORTUNES?

I DID WIN THE DS, AFTER ALL!

凶
BAD LUCK
ACT YOUR AGE.
待ち人…
失せ物…
仕事…
縁談…
健康…男性…
凶
BAD LUCK
BE CAREFUL NOT TO LOSE YOURSELF IN MERRY-MAKING.
待ち人…
失せ物…出
仕事…休
縁談…し
健康…
学業…
THEN WE'LL TIE THESE UP, AND GO HOME.
WELL, WE'D BETTER APOLO-GIZE.
I CAN JUST SEE THAT SMIRK NOW...
YEAH... OUR COVER IS DEFINITELY BLOWN.
...I HAVE A STRONG SENSE THAT THIS WAS WRITTEN JUST FOR ME.
AAAAH-HHH?!!
AND THUS, WHEN THE FEVERISH REVELRY HAD AT LAST GROWN STILL...
...THEY DISCOVERED THE TRUE JOY OF A JAPANESE FESTIVAL.
AND THIS IS AN ERASER...
IT'S A DS LIGHT!!
It's huge...
ピカ
FLASH!
THIS... ISN'T A DS LITE...
バラモ
Saint Young Men 1 / End

I want to try to pet a cat and have it hiss at me...
I kind of know the feeling...
B-DMP
B-DMP

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: SIDDHARTHA
JESUS' SHIRT: THE FATHER AND ME AND THE HOLY GHOST

TRANSLATION NOTES

Joshua, page 2

The four gospels that tell of the life of Jesus Christ were translated from Greek. Hence, the English spelling of Jesus comes from the Greek "Iesous," which in turn comes from the Aramaic "Yeshu'a," a contraction of the Hebrew "Yehoshu'a," a name meaning "Jehovah saves." The English name Joshua is derived from the same name. In other words, it's another language version of Jesus.

Shakya clan, page 2

The Shakya are the native clan of Siddhartha Gautama, the man who would become Buddha. One of Buddha's other names is Shakyamuni, or "Sage of the Shakyas."

Cabbage Hanako, page 2

This is the off-brand version Cabbage Tarō, a puffed corn snack that actually has no cabbage in it. It is flavored with nori seaweed and brown sauce.

Siddhartha, page 3

Siddhartha Gautama is the man who would eventually become Buddha. He was born a prince in a poor tribe, but his father knew he was destined for greatness and so shielded him from all the hardships of life. When he finally ventured outside of his seclusion at the age of 29, he encountered old age, sickness, and other suffering. He was so shocked at these discoveries that he left his old life behind and went off in search of a way to relieve universal suffering. After years of searching and meditation, he finally attained enlightenment and became Buddha, teaching the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path.

Nirvana, page 3

In the Buddhist tradition, when a person gains enlightenment, they are then free from the cycle of rebirth and the suffering that comes with it, and they can pass on to a state of Nirvana. Some who have achieved Nirvana choose to return to Earth as Bodhisattvas, to help others find enlightenment, and they go back to Nirvana at the end of these lifespans. This is what the animals are afraid is happening to Buddha here.

Amen, page 3

"Amen" is a Hebrew word meaning roughly "so be it." In the Christian tradition, it is often said at the end of prayers or hymns as a way of expressing agreement with what came before.

Buddha-buddy, page 3

The Japanese word for Buddha is *hotoke*. Pronounced slightly differently, the word *hottoke* means "leave me alone."

Katakana t-shirt, page 5

Katakana is one of three writing systems used in Japan, and is the one most often used for foreign words. Tourist attractions in Japan often sell t-shirts printed with katakana characters that spell out words such as Tokyo Disneyland, and at the time this chapter was written, it was more commonly foreigners that wore them.

Poked this spot, page 6

"This spot" refers to the urna on Buddha's forehead. In Japan, it's called a *byakugō*, meaning "fine white hair," and is thought of as a hair that grows in a spiral shape on the forehead. This represents the "third eye," which gives its owner spiritual vision.

Papico and Yukimi Daifuku, page 7

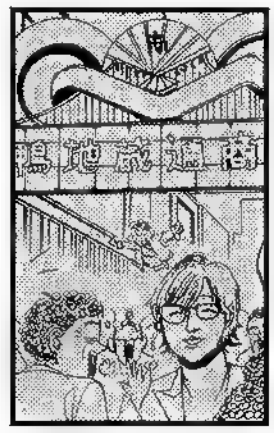
Papico is a drinkable ice cream that comes in two-bottle packs. Yukimi Daifuku is a ball of ice cream covered in a layer of *mochi* sticky rice cake.

Millennium, page 11

The Millennium mentioned here is a reference to the period of one thousand years when Christ will reign on the Earth prior to the Final Judgment, as prophesied in the Book of Revelation.

Sensoji Temple, page 12

Sensoji Temple is a Buddhist temple dedicated to Kannon Bosatsu, the Bodhisattva of compassion. As the oldest temple in Tokyo, it attracts many tourists from all over the world, and the adjoining shopping street sells many traditional Japanese items to cater to these tourists.



Yong-sama in Sugamo, page 12

Yong-sama is the name earned by Korean actor Bae Yong-joon among the Japanese older female demographic, due to his massive popularity among them. Sugamo is an area of Tokyo with a shopping district, Jizō-dori, that attracts the same crowd, and is known as Grandma's Harajuku.

Mudras, page 13

In order to give the tourist what he thinks they want (a stereotypical Buddha pose), Buddha is preparing to form a *mudra* (Sanskrit for "symbol" or "sign") with his hands. This particular mudra is called Abhaya—the mudra of blessing or protection which is associated with Buddha immediately after his enlightenment.

Buddha's hat, page 15

The image depicted in the middle of the word Asakusa on Buddha's new hat is the lantern that hangs at Kaminarimon, the famous Lightning Gate which is one of the most popular attractions at Sensoji Temple.

Shinsengumi, page 16

The Shinsengumi, or "Newly Chosen Group," were a band of elite law enforcement officers chosen to protect the shogun's political representatives in 1863. Famous members include Hijikata Toshizō and Kondō Isami.

How much did it cost?, page 17

The *mudra* shown here may be the Vitarka, or teaching *mudra*.

Jiminy Crickets, page 19

This is what is known as a "minced oath," a euphemistic expression or "almost swear word" used in place of words that would otherwise be offensive, and has been used as an alternative to "Jesus Christ" since before Walt Disney used it to name Pinocchio's conscience. The original Japanese version of this line is in fact "Jesus," as opposed to Iesu, the usual Japanese version of His name, which may or may not make it more of a minced oath than an actual blasphemous exclamation.

Crown of thorns, page 20

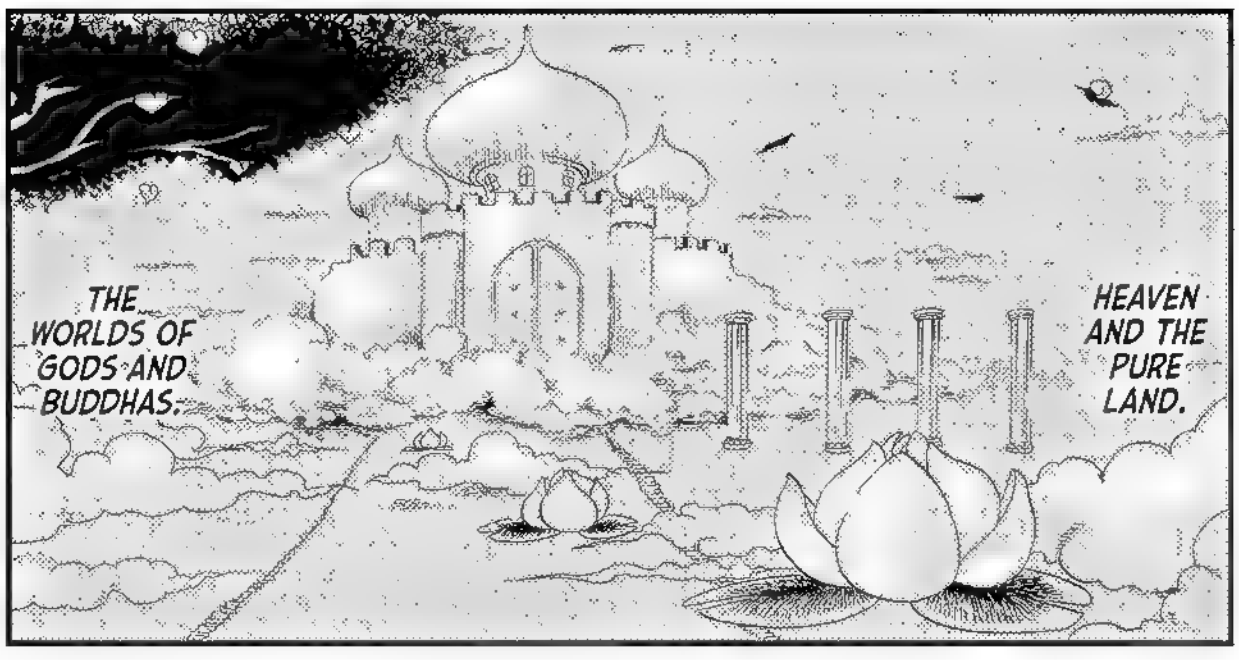
The crown of thorns often seen in depictions of Jesus Christ is not exactly an accessory He chose for Himself. It was customary at the time of His crucifixion to torment the condemned before carrying out the execution. Because His accusers told the Roman authorities that He was guilty of sedition and calling Himself a king, the Roman soldiers dressed Him in a purple robe to symbolize royalty, then gave Him a reed for a scepter, and finally they wove a crown for Him out of thorns. Then they mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

One drink bar order, page 22

This passenger is using Buddha's urna as the kind of button that can be found in a family restaurant—a sort of family-friendly restaurant known for its warm atmosphere and low prices. When seated, the customers are given a button they can use to call for server when they're ready to order. Some family restaurants offer a "drink bar" option, which allows a customer to help themselves to any of the soft drinks available at the bar, with free refills, for a low fee.

Buddha's long ears, page 23

As someone who grew up as royalty, Siddhartha Gautama wore his wealth on his ears, and the heavy adornments stretched his earlobes. When he renounced his worldly riches, he removed the weight from his ears, but they remained stretched and became a symbol of his enlightenment. The long ears seen on Buddha and the other Bodhisattvas symbolize wisdom and compassion.



The Pure Land, page 27

As the reader may have guessed, the Pure Land, also known as the Land of Ultimate Bliss, is a Buddhist equivalent of Heaven. More specifically, it is the realm presided over by Amitabha, who is primarily worshiped in far eastern Buddhist sects in China and Japan.

Major figures, page 28

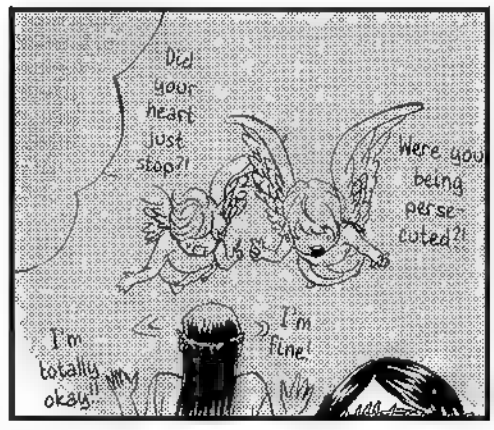
In the original text, the cast member explains that the price of two adult male tickets is 8000 yen. Buddha and Jesus hear the word *seijin* (adult) and think of a different *seijin,* which means "holy person." The translators attempted to replicate this very slight misunderstanding by using minor and major, as the two of them are major religious figures.

Mike is Not Ambitious, page 28

Mike is a nickname for Michael, and is likely a reference to the archangel Michael, who leads God's forces against the armies of Satan. The phrase "is not ambitious" appears in the Douay-Rheims translation of the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 13:5, which describes charity and, consequently, anyone possessed of that virtue.

Standing under the hot sun, page 31

In his quest for enlightenment, Siddhartha Gautama started to practice asceticism—torturing his physical body in an attempt to gain greater spiritual power. The practice Jesus describes here is one form of asceticism that was practiced during this period of Buddha's life, before he realized that it was not the way to gain true enlightenment.



Angels came to get me, page 34

Soon after Jesus was baptized, Satan appeared to tempt him. One of the things the devil tried to get Jesus to do was jump from the top of the temple, pointing out that if He is the Son of God, then according to scripture (Psalms 91:11-12), angels will watch over Him to make sure He comes to no harm.

The Heart Sutra, page 35

The Heart Sutra is one of the main scriptural texts used in Mahayana Buddhism, and is a treatise on the emptiness of all things. Reciting sutras is a form of meditation, which helps the reciter disengage the conscious mind and relieve stress, anxiety, and fear. Sutras are also chanted by monks at Buddhist funerals.

Opening the stigmata, page 39

The stigmata are the wounds that Jesus received when He was crucified, and can be seen as a representation of His taking on the sins of all mankind. Here, as he puts Buddha's needs before his own, the wounds open again as he suffers in place of another once more.

Lotus Sutra, page 46

The Lotus Sutra is another well-used sutra in Mahayana Buddhism, which expounds many of the concepts of Buddhism, not the least of which being that anyone can attain enlightenment.

Leah Dizon, page 47

Leah Dizon is an American who found a career as an entertainer in Japan. She made her debut in 2006, the same year this manga started.

13, page 48

Thirteen represents the number of Jesus plus His twelve apostles. Consequently, it is the number of people known to be at the Last Supper, and because of Judas Iscariot's betrayal, it has come to be seen as an unlucky number.

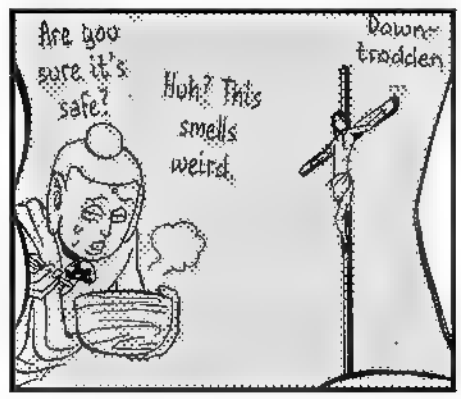
Buddha face countdown, page 49

There is a saying in Japanese that translates roughly to, "Even the Buddha's face will only smile three times." It means that even the most saintly of people have a limit to their patience.

Melon *pan*, page 50

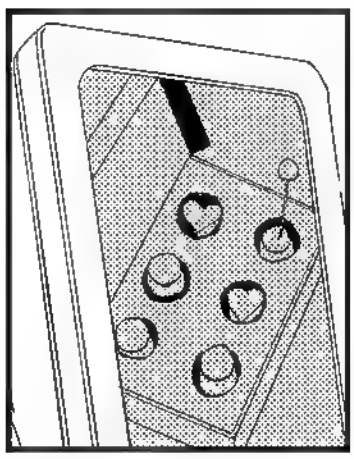
Melon *pan*, or melon bread, is a type of sweet bread that has a thin, cookie-like layer on the outside. It's scored in a cross-hatching pattern, which makes each bun resemble a melon.

Deaths, page 51



Jesus Christ died by crucifixion, the most excruciating form of capital punishment that could be imagined by the Romans at the time. His hands and feet were nailed to a wooden cross in a position designed to cause extreme pain but would not bring immediate death. Thus the victims would take hours, sometimes days, to die, of any number of causes, including heart failure and exhaustion. As if this were not unlucky enough, Jesus fell into the hands of His executioners because of the betrayal of Judas Iscariot, one of His closest associates.

As stated here by Buddha, his death was the result of eating bad food, although different sects are divided about what exactly his last meal was. The Mahayana tradition holds that he ate mushrooms that had been given to him as an offering. After eating them, Buddha fell violently ill and died. Nevertheless, he did not blame the man who offered him the meal (whatever it was), and insisted that the man should feel honored to have provided Buddha his last meal before his death.

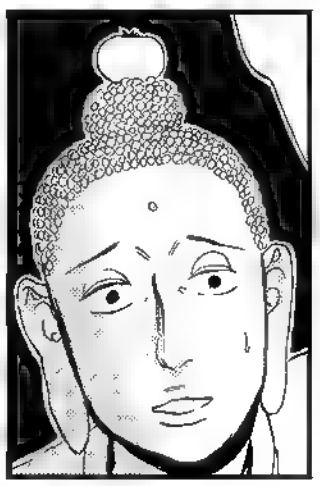


Pino ice cream, page 53

Pino ice cream consists of a dollop of ice cream coated in chocolate. The ice cream is sold in packs of six, and usually each piece is round, but on rare occasions, a box will contain an ice cream that is heart- or star-shaped. The heart Pino are known as "happiness Pino," and are thought to bring happiness, while the star Pino are "wish Pino," and are a sign that the eater's wish will come true. If finding one of these special ice creams is such a rare occurrence, two in one box would be very lucky indeed.

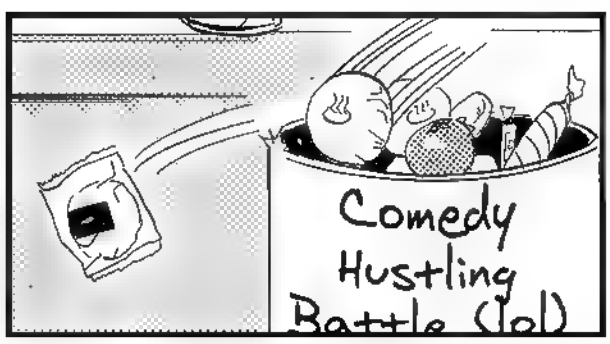
Namusan, page 53

Namusan is an abbreviation of *namusanpō*, which means roughly, "I believe in the Three Treasures of Buddhism!" and was originally a plea for mercy uttered by someone who has failed or been surprised. While these days it is used more as an exclamation or surprise or anger, in this case Buddha likely means it in the prayer sense, although the question of who would be answering this prayer remains unanswered.



Kagami-Mochi, page 58

Literally meaning "mirror rice cake," *kagami-mochi* consists of two mochi rice cakes stacked on top of each other, something like a snowman. An orange is placed on top, and the whole display is presented as an offering to the gods or buddhas worshiped in the home as a New Year's tradition.



Oranges and dumplings, page 60

While there was once a time in the United States when it was common practice to throw rotten fruit and vegetables at performers who did not live up to the viewers' expectations, in this case the food being sent down is the type of food that would be used as an offering at a Buddhist altar.

Right side, dream, white elephant, page 63

All three of these shirts are related to Buddha's miraculous birth. One night, his mother dreamed that a white elephant entered her womb through the right side. Nine months later, she gave birth, but did not suffer the pain that comes with labor—rather, the child came painlessly out of her right side.

The Father and Me and the Holy Ghost, page 64

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost together make up what is known as the Godhead or the Holy Trinity. Some Christian sects believe that the three entities represent three personalities of a single divine being, while others believe that they are three separate divine entities who are one in purpose.

Judas-san, page 66

The user pic sported by "Judas-san" is an image of a character by the same name from the classic anime *Fist of the North Star*. Perhaps he felt a kinship to this character because of their shared names and penchant for treachery.

Train Man, page 69

Train Man: Densha Otoko is the story of a shy, awkward young man who helps a woman fend off a drunken man on a train. When she thanks him by sending him a pair of expensive Hermes cups, he turns to the internet to help him figure out how to proceed with the relationship. This story of overcoming impossible odds was a smash hit in Japan, and was made into a TV series and a movie.

Chūgen gift, page 69

Chūgen is a holiday in the middle of the year. On this day, people give gifts to those who have done them service, such as teachers and doctors, as a way of showing gratitude.

Mr. Fasting Expert, page 71

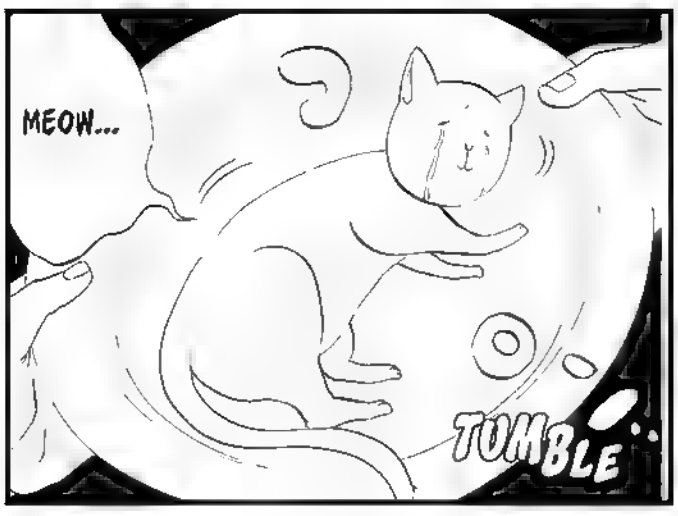
As part of his ascetic attempts to gain wisdom, Buddha would deny himself everything, including food. He would live off of a single grain of rice a day, until he stopped eating altogether. It was after all this that Sujata found him and offered him the milk-rice porridge.

Stones into bread and water into wine, page 72

Jesus was no stranger to fasting, either. After His baptism, He went into the wilderness, where He spent 40 days fasting. It was after this period that Satan came to tempt Him, and suggested that He use His divine power to turn rocks into food, because surely Jesus would be starving. Jesus refused, saying that "Man shall not live by bread alone." But while Jesus did not actually turn stones into bread, He certainly must have had the power to do so, as indicated by such miracles that are recorded, such as turning water into wine—high quality wine at that.

Mark-kun and Sei-san, page 73-74

In Japan, Mark is known as Marco, the Japanese pronunciation of which sounds like a woman's name, Maruko. As a saint, he would have the title of Saint, or Sei in Japanese. So Saint Mark becomes Sei Maruko, and because surnames come before given names in Japanese, Sei becomes the family name for everyone on the lease.



Cat barbecue, page 78

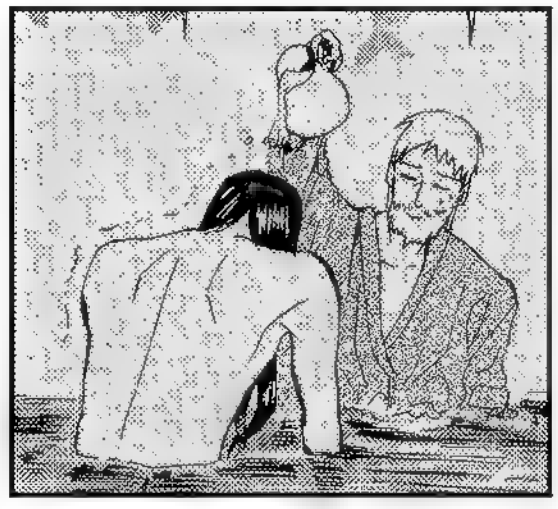
This story may be based on one about a past life of Buddha's. When Buddha was reincarnated as a rabbit, he and his friends lived in a forest where the custom was to make food offerings to anyone who passed through. The rabbit realized he had no food to offer guests, and determined to offer his own flesh as meat instead. The first traveler to come to the forest after the decision was made turned out to be Sakra, the ruler of Heaven, and when the rabbit followed through on his offering without hesitation, Sakra was so touched by his virtue, that he drew an image of the rabbit on the moon for all to see.

The Madal stroke, page 83

This stroke appears to be one known only to this particular incarnation of Buddha. A "madal" is a type of drum from Nepal, the country in which Siddhartha Gautama was born.

Jesus's baptism, page 84

Baptism is an ordinance performed in Christian denominations as a symbolic cleansing from sin, and is often considered a requirement for salvation. Although Jesus is sinless, He was baptized to set the example for all. Scholars generally agree that early Christians performed baptism by immersion, meaning the person baptized was completely submerged in the water, and many denominations still practice immersion baptisms. Baptism by pouring or sprinkling was provided as an alternative when circumstances made it impossible to perform an immersion baptism, and has become a common practice in some denominations.



According to the Bible, immediately after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Ghost came down in the form of a dove, and the voice of God the Father came from heaven, announcing that Jesus is His Son.

Jesus walks on water, page 85

The Bible tells of a time when Jesus retired to the mountains to pray, while His disciples went on ahead in a boat to their next destination. Sudden storms were not uncommon on the Sea of Galilee, and one arose at this particular time. As the sailors struggled to keep the boat from sinking, Jesus came to them, walking on the water, and when He joined them on the boat, the winds ceased and they quickly arrived on the other shore.

The zealous Buddhist, page 90

Because of the culture in Japan, and possibly also due to Japan's history of outlawing them, tattoos—especially large ones that cover the entire back—are associated with members of organized crime. While tattoos are gaining more acceptance in Japan today, many people still have a difficult time disassociating them from the criminal image.

Tezukism, page 95

Because Osamu Tezuka, the artist behind the Buddha manga, is such an influential figure in manga history, he has earned the title "God of Manga".

Samson and Delilah, page 96

The classic Bible story of love and betrayal. Samson was a man with super strength, which he received as a blessing from God for keeping his Nazirite vows, which included never cutting his hair. He fell in love with Delilah, who had been bribed by Samson's enemies to discover his weakness. After some failed attempts, she learned the truth, and ordered some servants to cut Samson's hair, robbing him of his strength. Some Christians compare Delilah to Jesus's betrayer, Judas Iscariot.

Stamp here, page 99
In Japan it is common practice to use an *inkan*, or signature seal, to stamp one's name on official documents, package delivery forms, etc., in lieu of signing one's name.

Can I Do It?, page 100
This is a reference to a Japanese educational show called *Dekirukana* (Can I Do It?) that consisted of 15-minute episodes that taught children to do crafts.

Dhammapata, page 101
The *Dhammapata* is a collection of the sayings of Buddha, and is one of the most widely used books of Buddhist scripture.

Sand art, page 104
There is an ancient Tibetan Buddhist tradition of creating mandalas—spiritual symbols that represent the universe—out of sand and then ritually destroying them. This is a sacred practice that symbolizes the impermanence of material things.

The Three Wise Men, page 105
Soon after Jesus's birth, he was visited by wise men from the East. Traditionally, it is believed that there were three men who visited him, possibly because they brought three gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh (expensive gifts worthy of a King).

Smiting on the cheek, page 106

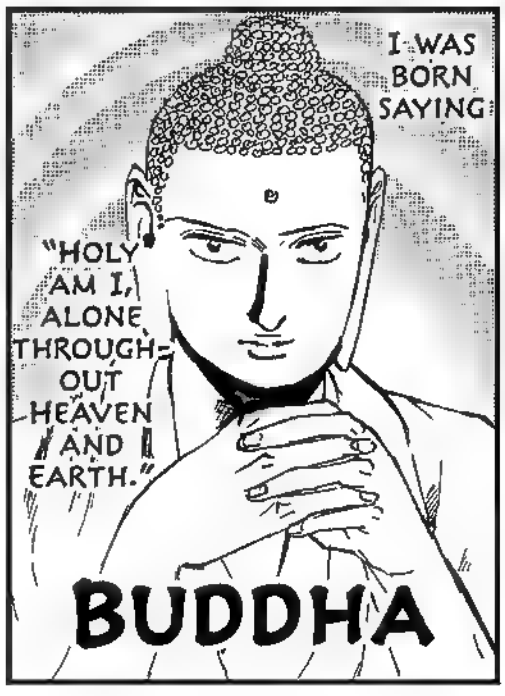
YOU THINK SO?
You denied me thrice!!
IT'D MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE IF SOMEONE SMOTE YOU ON THE LEFT CHEEK, YOU'D SMITE *THEM* ON *THEIR* RIGHT...

The saying "turn the other cheek" comes from the New Testament, where Jesus explains that the doctrine of an eye for an eye is to be replaced with one of forgiveness: "Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Apparently if Jesus looked like a shōnen manga hero, two smites would seem to be the limit of His patience.

The three-time denial is a reference to Simon Peter, who was asked three times, while the infamous trial was going on, if he knew Jesus. Peter lied every time and claimed to be unacquainted.

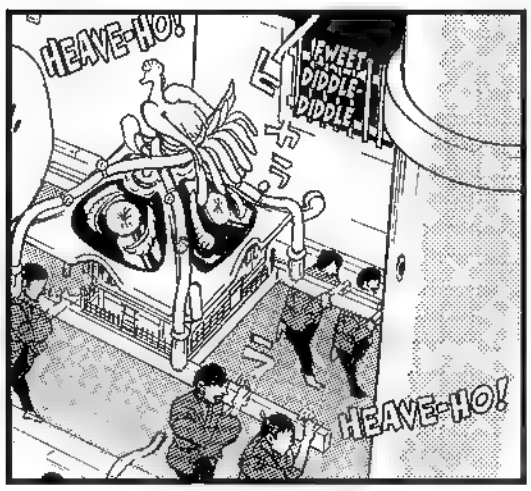
Bromide mini-posters, page 107
People, especially of the younger persuasion, have always liked to decorate their rooms with images of their favorite celebrities, and Japanese people are no exception. In the Land of the Rising Sun, portraits of celebrities were printed on something called "bromide paper," a special paper coated in silver bromide for fast printing. Now, even though bromide paper is no longer used, the word "bromide" lives on as the name of these celebrity portraits.

Buddha's first words, page 108
According to legend, after Siddhartha Gautama's miraculous birth, he immediately took seven steps, and at the seventh proclaimed what is translated into Japanese as, *"Tenjō tenge yuiga dokuson."* There are various reports as to the meaning, and therefore the English translation, of this phrase, but roughly it means that in all of heaven and earth, he is the only one of true worth.



Ananda, page 111

Ananda was one of Buddha's ten principal disciples, who became Buddha's personal attendant. Here, Buddha's manga begins with a play on Ananda's name. Another disciple addresses him by name, and he says, "Oh. What is it?" In Japanese, this is, *"A. Nanda?"*, a repetition of his own name.



Omikoshi, page 117

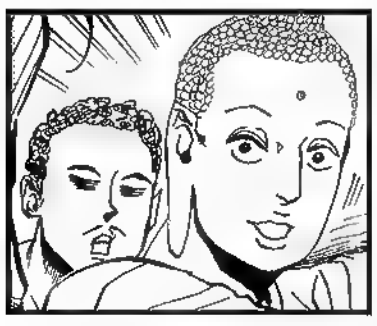
A common feature of a Japanese festival is the carrying of the *mikoshi*, a portable shrine for transporting a deity.

Brahmin, page 119

Brahmin is a class in the Hindu caste system consisting of religious leaders—priests, teachers, etc. This was the highest caste in the hierarchy. Buddha was against the idea of a person being classified as superior solely based on their birth, and instead taught that a person was worthy to be called a brahmin if they were virtuous.

Loaves and fishes, page 119

Jesus's shirt is a reference to one of the miracles He performed during His ministry. Thousands of people had gathered to hear Him teach, and instead of making them go to find their own food, He took what was available—a mere five loaves of bread and two fish—blessed them, and broke them into pieces to be shared among the crowd. By the time the meal was over, not only was everyone satisfied, but there were whole baskets full of the leftovers.



Hair like mine, page 121

The man perm Buddha has been sporting is more specifically what is called a "punch perm," referring to its very tight curls. There are many theories on the etymology of the name for the style, including that it comes from the hairstyle "packing a punch." The style was popular among a handful of specific demographics, not the least of which being members of the yakuza.

Color balls at the bank, page 123

In Japan, one method that has been developed to fight crime is to arm convenience stores, banks, and other places that are likely to be robbed with "color balls." These balls are filled with brightly colored dye and break open on impact, covering their target with the contents. This way, the criminal will be easily identified and can be arrested.

Buddha and Mucalinda, page 124

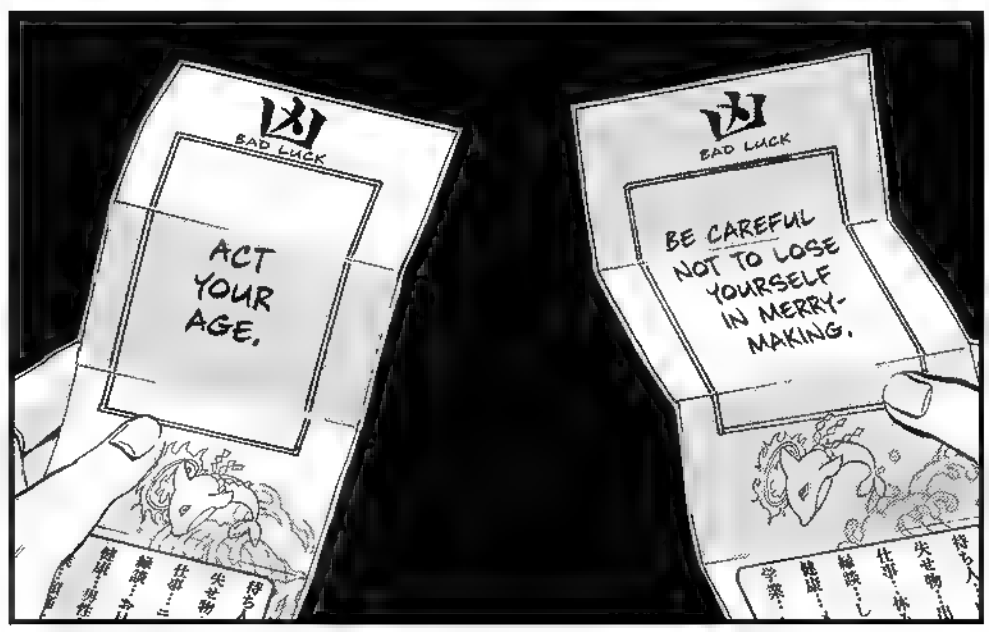
Sometime after Buddha attained enlightenment, he meditated under a tree when a rainstorm came. Mucalinda the King Cobra came out of the earth and kept Buddha warm, sheltering him from the rain using his hood. The rain passed seven days later, at which point Mucalinda took the form of a young man and paid his respects to Buddha.

Agape, page 130

Also known as charity, *agape* (ah-gah-pay) is the love that God and Christ have for mankind.

Omikuji fortunes, page 131

An *omikuji* is a little strip of paper with a fortune written on it, kind of like what you find in a fortune cookie, obtained at Japanese Buddhist and Shinto shrines by making an offering and choosing one at random. Each strip lists the amount of luck the chooser is going to have, ranging from *dai-kichi* (great blessing, great luck), through lesser degrees of luck and on through the degrees of curses of bad luck. If you get a bad luck fortune, you can dispel the curse by tying the *omikuji* strip of paper to a tree or a designated wire provided by the shrine or temple.



SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

AFTERWORD:
HIKARU NAKAMURA'S *SAINT YOUNG MEN* POWER

By *Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere, IFAC Handa Curator of Japanese Arts, British Museum and Research Director of Sainsbury Institute, University of East Anglia*

Perhaps it was Jesus and Buddha looking like tourists and wearing slogan T-shirts on the cover of the first volume of Hikaru Nakamura's *Saint Young Men* that first compelled me to pick up the manga at Kyoto Station in 2008. But from that moment I was hooked. My love affair with this manga shows no sign of abating at Volume 16 and I can only rejoice that Nakamura sensei's work is being translated into English and will become available to English-speaking audiences with this new Kodansha edition.

Shortly after purchasing the first volume in Japan we accessioned it into the British Museum Japan section library and then shortly afterward displayed it in the Mitsubishi Corporation Japanese Galleries in the manga section display (Room 94). Soon we were trending on Twitter, and happily in a very positive light.

Only Hikaru Nakamura could have created a manga that centers on the theme of Buddha and Jesus renting a flat together in Tachikawa, Tokyo. The premise is that they are taking a gap year on Earth in order to understand modern Japanese life. They attempt to hide their identities and share everyday adventures, resulting in often hilarious situations. The series started off as a short-run gag manga in 2006 in Kodansha's magazine *Morning 2* under the encouragement of chief editor Kôhei Furukawa, and is still going strong and gaining more and more followers with each *tankôbon* (graphic novel) release.

Hikaru Nakamura is a young and incredibly popular manga artist who specialises in comedy. She broke into the mainstream manga world with her work *Arakawa Under the Bridge* (started in 2005), which chronicles the adventures of a compelling tribe of homeless characters living under a bridge in Tokyo. Her work was formally recognised in 2009 when she was awarded the prestigious Tezuka Osamu prize for her short stories for *Saint Young Men*.

Such was the interest at the British Museum in manga in general and in Hikaru Nakamura's work in particular, I was able to curate a compact *Asahi Shimbun* "Objects in Focus" display at the British Museum at the very front of the museum in 2015 titled *Manga Now*. We featured three generations of manga artists—Chiba Tetsuya (b. 1939), Hoshino Yukinobu (b. 1954) and

Nakamura Hikaru (b. 1984)—and in a few months drew close to 100,000 visitors of all ages. Each artist had a bespoke work for the exhibition and we illustrated a representative story from each in translation. The designer wanted the exhibition to feel as if one was entering a manga itself and with the drawings on frames inside the space and not against the wall.

We reached out to Hikaru Nakamura sensei initially, as you may have guessed, on Twitter. Soon afterwards we were lucky to be able to meet her editor at Kodansha, Kôji Tabuchi, who then after a thorough interrogation as to our intentions introduced us to Nakamura sensei herself. I have to admit to being a bit star-struck after following her work for so long. Meeting her was also a revelation. She was refreshingly open in discussing her challenges and discoveries in creating a manga on such a potentially controversial theme. Nakamura sensei mentioned she was surprised by the positive reactions to her manga and that she received a number of letters from religious specialists, university professors, Buddhist priests and Christian clergy. The readership seems quite broad judging by the letters she noted, ranging from young adults to people in their sixties.

Happily she donated a story to the British Museum and chose episode 69, "The Loveable Rascal in a Red Suit," when Jesus Christ experiences Christmas, his birthday, in Japan, where the immense popularity of Santa Claus takes him by surprise. To calm down, Jesus takes a walk and accidentally finds his way into a confessional booth in a Catholic church, and confesses to the priest his unexpected jealousy of Santa's popularity. I will not give the rest of the story away, but believe me it will be worth the wait for the translation. Her donation of this story was our own Christmas present and became pivotal for the Museum's nascent genga collection and most certainly paved the way for the large manga exhibition at the British Museum in the summer of 2019. When we were creating this display in 2015 *Saint Young Men* was not yet translated into English as we undertook the task ourselves. Until doing this I had no idea how challenging it would be to translate Nakamura sensei's puns and word plays into English. She is a wordsmith keeping her references topical to contemporary interests. Even Jesus and Buddha's T-shirt slogan messages are all carefully curated to give an added punch and smile to her readers.

Nakamura sensei also donated the cover artwork for Volume 10 where Buddha is learning how to draw manga, a newly found passion of his. It is early morning, they have stayed up all night and Buddha is still going strong but Jesus has fallen asleep, G-pen still in hand. Who would have thought that Buddha would have a passion for manga? What Nakamura has managed to do with *Saint Young Men* is to entertain, stimulate and keep us addicted to this wonderful friendship that never fails to make you see life around you slightly differently as a result.

Saint Young Men 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2008 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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English digital edition published by KodanshaAdvanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781642126693

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Alethea Nibley, Athena Nibley
Lettering by Lys Blakeslee
Editing by Jacob Friedman
TOYOKUNI Printing Co., Ltd.